

# ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ΔΕΣΜΩΤΗΣ

## ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

- Χθονὸς μὲν εἰς τήλουρον ἤκομεν πέδον,  
Σκύθην ἐς οἶμον, ἄβροτον εἰς ἐρημίαν.  
Ἕφαιστε, σοὶ δὲ χρὴ μέλειν ἐπιστολὰς  
5 ἅς σοι πατὴρ ἐφεῖτο, τόνδε πρὸς πέτραις  
ὑψηλοκρήμνοις τὸν λεωργὸν ὀχμάσαι  
ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν ἐν ἀρρήκτοις πέδαις.  
τὸ σὸν γὰρ ἄνθος, παντέχνου πυρὸς σέλας,  
θνητοῖσι κλέψας ὥπασεν· τοιαῦσδ' ἐμοὶ  
ἀμαρτίας σφε δεῖ θεοῖς δοῦναι δίκην,  
10 ὥς ἂν διδαχθῇ τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδα  
στέργειν, φιλανθρώπου δὲ παύεσθαι τρόπον.

## ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

- Κράτος Βία τε, σφῶν μὲν ἐντολὴ Διὸς  
ἔχει τέλος δὴ κούδ' ἐμποδὼν ἔτι.  
ἐγὼ δ' ἄτολμός εἰμι συγγενὴ θεὸν  
15 δῆσαι βία φάραγγι πρὸς δυσχειμέρῳ·  
πάντως δ' ἀνάγκη τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ τόλμαν σχεθεῖν,  
ἐξωριάζειν γὰρ πατρὸς λόγους βαρύν.  
τῆς ὀρθοβούλου Θέμιδος αἰπυμῆτα παῖ,  
ἄκοντά σ' ἄκων δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι  
20 προσπασσαλεύσω τῷδ' ἀπανθρώπῳ πάγῳ,  
ἵν' οὔτε φωνὴν οὔτε του μορφὴν βροτῶν  
ὄψῃ, σταθευτὸς δ' ἡλίου φοίβῃ φλογὶ  
χροιάς ἀμείψεις ἄνθος· ἀσμένῳ δέ σοι  
ἢ ποικιλείμων νύξ ἀποκρύψει φάος,

1 τήλουρον West (1998. Praefatio LI) : τηλουρόν Ω

2 οἶμον M I B O V: οἶμον ceteri ἄβροτον Σ Hom. *Il.* 14.78, Σ Aristoph. *Frogs* 814 : ἄβατον Ω

6 ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν... πέδαις Σ Aristoph. : ἀδαμαντίναις πέδησιν ἐν ἀρρήκτοις πέτραις (vel sim.) M alii

17 ἐξωριάζειν Ω : εὐωριάζειν Porson, West (conferens Soph. fr. 561 Pearson), alii

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# PROMETHEUS BOUND

Scene: a sheer rock-face high up in a mountain range (perhaps the Kaukasos; see Commentary, "Stage setting"), conceived of as being at the remote fringe of the world; the sea is in close proximity. Four figures enter from (audience-) left. Two are in servants' attire and wear slave masks, made exaggeratedly fearsome, even grotesque (78). They are Power (*Kratos*), a male, clearly the dominant one, and a female, Force (*Bia*), a non-speaking role. They have in custody the Titan Prometheus. Following behind with some reluctance is Hephaistos, carrying tools that help to identify him as the divine blacksmith.

## POWER

We have come to a remote region of the world,  
To the land of Skythia, uninhabited, a desert.  
Hephaistos, you must follow the instructions  
Given you by Father Zeus, to bolt  
5 This criminal to a lofty cliff with bonds  
Hard as adamant that cannot be broken.  
For it was your glory, fire's blaze, basis  
Of every craft, that he stole and gave to mortals;  
For such a crime he must pay a penalty to the gods,  
10 So that he may be taught to love Zeus's  
Tyranny, and stop his human-loving ways.

## HEPHAISTOS

Power and Force, you've now completed your part  
Of Zeus's command; no further obstacle remains.  
But I can't bring myself to bind by force  
15 A god, my kinsman, to this stormy chasm;  
Yet for all that I must find the nerve to do it,  
For to make light of Father's words is serious.

*(He addresses Prometheus.)*

Proud-minded son of Themis the counsellor,  
Unwillingly and against your will I rivet you  
20 To this desolate rock with chains you'll not escape,  
Where you'll not see a human form, nor hear  
A voice, but, baked by the sun's bright flame,  
Your skin's bloom will wither, and you'll be glad  
When night in her robe of stars removes the light,

- 25 πάχνην θ' ἑώαν ἥλιος σκεδᾷ πάλιν·  
αἰεὶ δὲ τοῦ παρόντος ἀχθηδὼν κακοῦ  
τρύσει σ', ὁ λωφήσων γὰρ οὐ πέφυκέ πω.  
τοιαῦτ' ἐπηύρου τοῦ φιλανθρώπου τρόπου·  
θεὸς θεῶν γὰρ οὐχ ὑποπτήσσων χόλον
- 30 βροτοῖσι τιμὰς ὥπασας πέρα δίκης·  
ἀνθ' ὧν ἀτερπὴ τήνδε φρουρήσεις πέτραν  
ὀρθοστάδην ἄϋπνος, οὐ κάμπτων γόνυ·  
πολλοὺς δ' ὀδυρμούς καὶ γόους ἀνωφελεῖς  
φθέγξῃ· Διὸς γὰρ δυσπαραίτητοι φρένες·
- 35 ἅπας δὲ τραχὺς ὅστις ἂν νέον κρατῇ.  
Κρ. εἶέν, τί μέλλεις καὶ κατοικτίζῃ μάτην;  
τί τὸν θεοῖς ἔχθιστον οὐ στυγεῖς θεόν,  
ὅστις τὸ σὸν θνητοῖσι προὔδωκεν γέρας;  
Ηφ. τὸ συγγενές τοι δεινὸν ἢ θ' ὀμιλία.
- 40 Κρ. ξύμφημ' ἀνηκουστεῖν δὲ τῶν πατρὸς λόγων  
οἶόν τε πῶς; οὐ τοῦτο δειμαίνεις πλέον;  
Ηφ. αἰεὶ γε δὴ νηλῆς σὺ καὶ θράσους πλέως.  
Κρ. ἄκος γὰρ οὐδὲν τόνδε θρηνεῖσθαι· σὺ δὲ  
τὰ μηδὲν ὠφελοῦντα μὴ πόνει μάτην.
- 45 Ηφ. ὦ πολλὰ μισηθεῖσα χειρωναξία.  
Κρ. τί νιν στυγεῖς; πόνων γὰρ ὥς ἀπλῶ λόγῳ  
τῶν νῦν παρόντων οὐδὲν αἰτία τέχνη.  
Ηφ. ἔμπας τις αὐτὴν ἄλλος ὄφελεν λαχεῖν.  
Κρ. ἅπαντ' ἐπαχθῇ πλὴν θεοῖσι κοιρανεῖν.
- 50 ἐλεύθερος γὰρ οὗτις ἐστὶ πλὴν Διός.  
Ηφ. ἔγνωκα τοῖσδε, κούδὲν ἀντειπεῖν ἔχω.

28 ἐπηύρου Elmsley (ἐπηύρω M) : ἀπηύρω plerique

42 γε δὴ Q<sup>2</sup> K : τε δὴ, τοι δὴ, τι δὴ alii

49 ἐπαχθῇ Stanley : ἐπράχθη Ω (et Σ)

- 25 And the sun again dispels the frost at dawn.  
The burden of each attendant evil will afflict you,  
For no one yet exists who can bring you relief.  
Such are your rewards for your human-loving ways.  
For you, a god, did not cower before the gods' anger,  
30 But bestowed privileges on mortals beyond what is just,  
And in return you keep watch at this joyless crag,  
Ramrod straight, unsleeping, no chance to relax  
Your knee. Many laments and useless moans  
You'll utter, for Zeus's heart cannot be swayed:  
35 For everyone fresh to power is harsh.

POWER

Right, then: why delay? Why waste pity?  
Surely you hate a god so hateful to the gods,  
Who handed over your special honour to mortals?

HEPHAISTOS

Bonds of kinship and closeness have strange power.

POWER

- 40 I agree; but how can you turn a deaf ear  
To Father's words? Aren't you more afraid of that?

HEPHAISTOS

Yes, but you're so merciless, and much too bold.

POWER

To set up a dirge for him is no remedy;  
Don't waste your efforts on what brings no benefit.

HEPHAISTOS

- 45 This handicraft of mine – how much I hate it!

POWER

Why hate *it*? Put simply, your skill  
Is not to blame for these present troubles.

HEPHAISTOS

Nevertheless, it should have been allotted to someone else.

POWER

- 50 Everything's a burden – except lordship over gods,  
Because no one is free except Zeus.

HEPHAISTOS

I know it from *this* task; I cannot deny it.

- Κρ. οὔκουν ἐπέιξῃ τῷδε δεσμὰ περιβαλεῖν,  
ὥς μή σ' ἐλινύοντα προσδερχθῇ πατήρ;
- Ηφ. καὶ δὴ πρόχειρα ψάλια δέρκεσθαι πάρα.
- 55 Κρ. βαλὼν νυν ἄμφι χερσὶν ἐγκρατεῖ σθένει  
ῥαιστήρι θεῖνε, πασσάλευε πρὸς πέτραις.
- Ηφ. περαίνεται δὴ κοῦ ματᾶ τοῦργον τόδε.
- Κρ. ἄρασσε μᾶλλον, σφίγγε, μηδαμῇ χάλα·  
δεινὸς γὰρ εὖρεῖν κάξ ἀμηχάνων πόρον.
- 60 Ηφ. ἄραρεν ἥδε γ' ὠλένη δυσεκλύτως.
- Κρ. καὶ τήνδε νῦν πόρπασον ἀσφαλῶς, ἵνα  
μάθῃ σοφιστῆς ὢν Διὸς νωθέστερος.
- Ηφ. πλὴν τοῦδ' ἂν οὐδεὶς ἐνδίκως μέμπαιτό μοι.
- Κρ. ἀδμαντίνου νῦν σφηνὸς αὐθάδη γνάθον
- 65 στέρνων διαμπὰξ πασσάλευ' ἐρρωμένως.
- Ηφ. αἰαῖ Προμηθεῦ, σῶν ὑπερστένω πόνων.
- Κρ. σὺ δ' αὖ κατοκνεῖς τῶν Διὸς τ' ἐχθρῶν ὕπερ  
στένεις; ὅπως μὴ σαντὸν οἰκτιεῖς ποτε.
- Ηφ. ὀρᾷς θέαμα δυσθέατον ὄμμασιν;
- 70 Κρ. ὀρῶ κυροῦντα τόνδε τῶν ἐπαξίων.  
ἀλλ' ἄμφι πλευραῖς μασχαλιστήρας βάλε.
- Ηφ. δρᾶν ταῦτ' ἀνάγκη, μηδὲν ἐγκέλευ' ἄγαν.
- Κρ. ἦ μὴν κελεύσω κάπιθωῦξω γε πρὸς.  
χώραι κάτω, σκέλη δὲ κίρκωσον βίᾳ.
- 75 Ηφ. καὶ δὴ πέπρακται τοῦργον οὐ μακρῷ πόνῳ.



POWER

Hurry, won't you, in putting the chains around him,  
So Father doesn't see you taking time off.

HEPHAISTOS

There, look, the headbrace is right here in plain view.

POWER

55 Move down round his arms now. Keep hammering powerfully  
With all your strength. Pin him fast to the rock.

HEPHAISTOS

The job is getting done, and not going slowly.

POWER

Hit harder! Tighten it! Don't leave him loose anywhere!  
For he's clever at finding a way, even from an impasse.

HEPHAISTOS

60 This arm at least is firmly fixed – no getting out.

POWER

Clamp the other securely, too, so he'll learn  
That, though a sophist, he's no match for Zeus.

HEPHAISTOS

No one could justly find fault with me – except *him*.

POWER

Now rivet the adamantine wedge's stubborn  
65 Jaw right through his chest, vigorously!

HEPHAISTOS

Ah! Prometheus, I groan for your ordeal.

POWER

Holding back again? Moaning for Zeus's enemies?  
Be careful or you'll end up pitying yourself.

HEPHAISTOS

Do you see a sight painful for the eyes to view?

POWER

70 I see this person who's got what he deserves.  
Be sure to put girths round his mid-section.

HEPHAISTOS

It has to be done – stop giving excessive orders!

POWER

I *shall* give orders and shout them out, too!  
Move down him; put hoops on his legs with force.

HEPHAISTOS

75 There, it's done and took no great trouble.

Κρ. ἔρρωμένως νῦν θεῖνε διατόρους πέδας,  
ὥς οὐπιτιμητῆς γε τῶν ἔργων βαρύς.

Ηφ. ὅμοια μορφῇ γλῶσσά σου γηρύεται.

Κρ. σὺν μαλθακίζου, τὴν δ' ἐμὴν αὐθαδίαν  
80 ὀργῆς τε τραχυτήτα μὴ 'πίπλησσε μοι.

Ηφ. στείχωμεν, ὥς κώλοισιν ἀμφίβληστρ' ἔχει.

Κρ. ἐνταῦθα νῦν ὕβριζε καὶ θεῶν γέρα  
συλῶν ἐφημέροισι προστίθει. τί σοι  
οἰοί τε θνητοὶ τῶνδ' ἀπαντλήσαι πόνων;

85 ψευδωνύμως σε δαίμονες Προμηθέα  
καλοῦσιν· αὐτὸν γάρ σε δεῖ Προμηθέως,  
ὅτῳ τρόπῳ τῆσδ' ἐκκυλισθήσῃ τέχνης.

#### ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ὦ διὸς αἰθὴρ καὶ ταχύπτεροι πνοαὶ  
ποταμῶν τε πηγαὶ ποντίων τε κυμάτων  
90 ἀνήριθμον γέλασμα παμμήτωρ τε γῆ,  
καὶ τὸν πανόπτην κύκλον ἡλίου καλῶ·  
ἴδεσθέ μ' οἷα πρὸς θεῶν πάσχω θεός.

δέρχθηθ' οἷαις αἰκείαισιν  
διακναιόμενος τὸν μυριέτη  
95 χρόνον ἀθλεύσω·  
τοιόνδ' ὁ νέος ταγὸς μακάρων  
ἐξηῦρ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ δεσμὸν ἀεικῆ.  
φεῦ φεῦ· τὸ παρὸν τό τ' ἐπερχόμενον  
πῆμα στενάχω. ποῖ ποτε μόχθων  
100 χρὴ τέρμα τι τῶνδ' ἀναμεῖναι;

86 προμηθέως Ω (Προμ- scripsi, nomen proprium intellegens) : προμηθείας Elmsley, West, alii

90 παμμήτωρ M, alii nonnulli : παμμήτορ plerique

94 μυριέτη U, Blaydes, West : μυριετή plerique

97 ἐξηῦρ' Dindorf : ἐξεῦρ' Ω

99 ποῖ M plerique : πῆ nonnulli

100 τέρμα τι Blomfield : τέρμα vel τέρματα codd. ἀναμεῖναι scripsi (cf. Aristoph. *Lysis*. 526, ubi ποῖ "quousque" intellegendum est) : ἐπιτεῖλαι Ω (et Σ)



POWER

Now strike the pierced chains vigorously,  
For our workmanship will have a stern appraiser.

HEPHAISTOS

Your mouth is making sounds to match your looks.

POWER

80      You've gone soft; don't fling in my face  
My stubbornness and the harshness of my temper.

*(Hephaistos completes his task.)*

HEPHAISTOS

We can go; his limbs are completely enmeshed.

POWER *(taunting Prometheus)*

85      Here, now, show insolence! Plunder the gods'  
Prerogatives! Give them to short-lived creatures!  
How can mortals bail you out of these troubles?  
In calling you Prometheus, Foresight, the gods  
Misname you; you *need* a Prometheus to find  
A way to wriggle out of *this* handiwork.

*(Hephaistos, Power and the attendants leave the stage;  
Prometheus at long last speaks.)*

PROMETHEUS

90      O bright air and feather-swift breezes,  
Streams of rivers and countless smiles  
On the billowing sea, Earth mother of all  
And all-seeing, circling Sun, I call on you:  
Look on me, a god, how the gods make me suffer.  
95      See the outrageous torments  
That will grate me as I struggle  
Through endless stretches of time –  
Such disgraceful bondage the new ruler  
Of the blessed gods devised for me!  
Ah! I groan for misery present  
And to come. How long must I wait  
100      For some end of these agonies?

- καίτοι τί φημι; πάντα προυξεπίσταμαι  
 σκεθρῶς τὰ μέλλοντ', οὐδέ μοι ποταίνιον  
 πῆμ' οὐδὲν ἥξει. τὴν πεπρωμένην δὲ χρὴ  
 αἶσαν φέρειν ὥς ῥᾴστα, γιγνώσκονθ' ὅτι  
 105 τὸ τῆς' Ανάγκης ἔστ' ἀδήριτον σθένος.  
 ἀλλ' οὔτε σιγᾶν οὔτε μὴ σιγᾶν τύχας  
 οἶόν τέ μοι τάσδ' ἐστί. θνητοῖς γὰρ γέρα  
 πορὼν ἀνάγκαις ταῖσδ' ἐνέζευγμαι τάλας·  
 ναρθηκοπλήρωτον δὲ θηρῶμαι πυρὸς  
 110 πηγὴν κλοπαίαν, ἥ διδάσκαλος τέχνης  
 πάσης βροτοῖς πέφηνε καὶ μέγας πόρος.  
 τοιῶνδε ποινὰς ἀμπλακημάτων τίνω  
 ὑπαίθριος δεσμοῖς πεπασσαλευμένος.  
 ᾶ ᾶ ἔα ἔα·  
 115 τίς ἀχώ, τίς ὁδμὰ προσέπτα μ' ἀφεγγής;  
 θεόσυτος, ἥ βρότειος, ἥ κεκραμένη;  
 ἵκετο τερμόνιον τις ἐπὶ πάγον  
 πόνων ἐμῶν θεωρός, ἥ τί δὴ θέλων;  
 ὁρᾶτε δεσμώτην με, δύσποτμον θεόν,  
 120 τὸν Διὸς ἐχθρόν, τὸν πᾶσι θεοῖς  
 δι' ἀπεχθείας ἐλθόνθ' ὁπόσοι  
 τὴν Διὸς αὐλὴν εἰσοιχνεῦσιν,  
 διὰ τὴν λίαν φιλότητα βροτῶν.  
 φεῦ φεῦ, τί ποτ' αὖ κινάθισμα κλύω  
 125 πέλας οἶωνῶν; αἰθὴρ δ' ἔλαφραῖς  
 πτερύγων ῥιπαῖς ὑποσυρίζει  
 πᾶν μοι φοβερὸν τὸ προσέρπον.

107 aliquid post ἐστί excidisse suspicatur West, afferens Σ inter versus 108 et 109 Ὁ ὁρῶν ὁ Ζεὺς οὐκ ἐπιλήσεται τῆς εἰς ἐμὲ ὀργῆς (Herington 1972: 90)

112 τοιῶνδε Pearson, West : τοιάσδε Ω

113 πεπασσαλευμένος Auratus : πασσαλευμένος vel πασσαλεύμενος vel πασσαλευτὸς codd.

116 θεόσυτος YX : θεόσσυτος ceteri

117 τις inseruit Pauw

Yet, what am I saying? I have clear and thorough knowledge  
Of all that is to come; no unexpected misery  
Will come to me. One's fated destiny  
Must be borne in the easiest way, in the knowledge  
105 That the strength of Necessity is irresistible.  
But I cannot keep silent, or not keep silent, about  
What has happened to me; because I gave prizes to mortals  
I bear this yoke of compulsion in my misery;  
I hunted out and stole in a hollow reed  
110 A stream of fire, which has proved to be for humans  
A teacher of every craft and a great resource.  
For such "offences" I am paying the penalty,  
Pinned down and chained in the open air.

*(The Chorus of Oceanids approach, possibly  
in one large or several smaller winged carts;  
they are still some way off.)*

Ah!  
115 What sound, what smell flew at me invisibly?  
Was it divinely sent or human, or a blend?  
Has someone come to this rock at world's end  
To view my distress, or what can it mean?  
Look on me in chains, an ill-fated god,  
120 Zeus's enemy, who has got himself  
Hated by all the gods who  
Frequent Zeus's court,  
Because of excessive love for humans.

*(The Chorus come closer.)*

Aah! What now is the sound that I hear  
125 Nearby, a whirring of birds? The air  
Hisses with the faint flapping of wings;  
Everything that comes to me brings fear.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ

- μηδὲν φοβηθῆς· φιλία γὰρ ἄδε τάξις  
 στρ. 1  
 πτερύγων θοαῖς ἀμίλλαις  
 130 προσέβα τόνδε πάγον, πατρώας  
 μόγισ παρειποῦσα φρένας·  
 κραιπνοφόροι δέ μ' ἔπεμψαν αὖραι.  
 κτύπου γὰρ ἄχῳ χάλυβος διῆξεν ἄντρων  
 μυχόν, ἐκ δ' ἔπληξέ μου τὰν θεμερῶπιν αἰδῶ·  
 135 σύθην δ' ἀπέδιλος ὄχῳ πτερωτῷ.

- Πρ. αἰαῖ αἰαῖ,  
 τῆς πολυτέκνου Τηθύος ἔκγονα,  
 τοῦ περὶ πᾶσάν θ' εἰλίσσομένου  
 χθόν' ἀκοιμήτῳ ῥεύματι παῖδες  
 140 πατρὸς Ὠκεανοῦ, δέρχθητ', ἐσίδεσθ'  
 οἶῳ δεσμῷ προσπορπατὸς  
 τῆσδε φάραγγος σκοπέλοις ἐν ἄκροις  
 φρουρὰν ἄζηλον ὀχήσω.

- Χο. λεύσσω, Προμηθεῦ, φοβερὰ δ' ἐμοῖσιν ὅσσοις  
 ἀντ. 1  
 145 ὁμίχλα προσῆξε πλήρης  
 δακρύων σὸν δέμας εἰσιδούσα  
 πέτρα προσαυαινόμενον  
 ταῖσδ' ἀδαμαντοδέτοισι λύμαις.  
 νέοι γὰρ οἰακονόμοι κρατοῦσ' Ὀλύμπου,  
 150 νεοχμοῖς δὲ δὴ νόμοις Ζεὺς ἀθέτως κρατύνει·  
 τὰ πρὶν δὲ πελώρια νῦν αἵστοι.

148 ταῖσδ' Victoriuss : ταῖς Ω

150 ἀθέτως Bentley ex Hesychio α 1569 : ἀθέσμως Ω Cf. Flintoff 1984

## CHORUS

- 130 Do not be afraid: our loving band has raced  
To this rock with a rapid rush of wings; I had  
Trouble persuading father to let us come.  
Swift-running currents of air bore me along.  
For the clang of hammering steel rushed through  
Deep into the cave and drove away my shy reserve;  
135 I sped here unshod on a winged cart.
- Strophe 1

## PROMETHEUS

- Aah!  
Children of Tethys who had many offspring  
And of your father Ocean, who circles  
All the earth untiringly  
140 With his surging stream, look at me! See  
With what shackles I am pinned  
To this ravine's high peak and will keep  
Watch – a task no one would grudge me.

## CHORUS

- 145 I see, Prometheus, and fear brings to my eyes  
A mist full of tears  
As I look upon your body  
Withering away on a rock, made fast  
With these outrageous bonds of adamant.  
For new steersmen hold power on Olympos  
150 And with laws that are new Zeus wields power unlawfully;  
Those who had strength before he is now annihilating.
- Antistrophe 1

- Πρ. εἰ γάρ μ' ὑπὸ γῆν νέρθεν θ' Ἄιδου  
 τοῦ νεκροδέγμονος εἰς ἀπέραντον  
 155 Τάρταρον ἦκεν δεσμοῖς ἀλύτοις  
 ἀγρίως πελάσας, ὥς μήτε θεὸς  
 μήτε τις ἄλλος τοῖσδ' ἐπεγάθει·  
 νῦν δ' αἰθέριον κίνυγμ' ὁ τάλας  
 ἐχθροῖς ἐπίχαρτα πέπονθα.
- 160 Χο. τίς ὦδε τλησικάρδιος στρ. 2  
 θεῶν, ὅτῳ τὰδ' ἐπιχαρῆ;  
 τίς οὐ ξυνασχαλᾷ κακοῖς  
 τεοῖσι, δίχα γε Διός; ὁ δ' ἐπικότως αἰεὶ  
 θέμενος ἄγναμπτον νόον  
 165 δάμνεται Οὐρανίαν γένναν, οὐδὲ λήξει  
 πρὶν ἂν ἡ κορέση κέαρ ἢ παλάμα τινὶ  
 τὰν δυσάλωτον ἔλῃ τις ἀρχάν.
- Πρ. ἦ μὴν ἔτ' ἐμοῦ καίπερ κρατεραῖς  
 ἐν γυιοπέδαις αἰκίζομένου  
 χρεῖαν ἔξει μακάρων πρύτανις,  
 170 δεῖξαι τὸ νέον βούλευμ' ὑφ' ὅτου  
 σκῆπτρον τιμάς τ' ἀποσυλᾶται.  
 καί μ' οὔτι μελιγλώσσοις πειθοῦς  
 ἐπαιοδαῖσιν θέλξει, στερεάς τ'  
 οὔποτ' ἀπειλὰς πτήξας τόδ' ἐγὼ  
 175 καταμηνύσω, πρὶν ἂν ἐξ ἀγρίων  
 δεσμῶν χαλάσῃ ποινὰς τε τίνειν  
 τῆσδ' αἰκείας ἐθελήσῃ.

157 ἐπεγάθει Wecklein, West : ἐπεγήθει M alii (et ἐπιγήθει, ἐγεγήθει, ἐπι- vel ἐπεγεγήθει)

172 μ' οὔτι plerique : μ' οὔτοι M O (μ' οὔτε Porson)

176 τε τίνειν Tri : τέ μοι vel τ' ἐμοὶ τίνειν Ω



## PROMETHEUS

155 If only he had hurled me under the earth  
 Beneath Hades collector of souls to limitless  
 Tartaros, had savagely bound me  
 With inescapable chains so that neither god  
 Nor anyone else could delight at this.  
 As it is I am a pathetic plaything of the breezes  
 And suffer thus for my enemies to enjoy.

## CHORUS

Strophe 2

160 What god could be so hard-hearted  
 As to enjoy this?  
 Who does not share in indignation  
 At your sufferings ? – except, perhaps, Zeus;  
 With inflexible purpose he vengefully suppresses  
 165 The race of Titans sprung from Ouranos, and will  
 not stop  
 Until his heart is sated or someone uses a trick  
 To snatch from him the empire so hard to capture.

## PROMETHEUS

170 I tell you, though my limbs are shamefully  
 Fettered in powerful chains,  
 The Chief of the Blessed shall have need of me  
 To disclose the new scheme which will  
 Rob him of his sceptre and prerogatives.  
 And he won't cast over me sweet-tongued  
 Persuasive spells, nor will I ever cower  
 Before his harsh threats and reveal it –  
 175 No, not until he releases me  
 From these brutal bonds and is willing  
 To compensate me for this outrage.

Χο. σὺ μὲν θρασύς τε καὶ πικραῖς  
 δύαισιν οὐδὲν ἐπιχαλᾷς,  
 180 ἄγαν δ' ἐλευθεροστομεῖς·  
 ἐμὰς δὲ φρένας ἠρέθισε διάτορος φόβος,  
 δέδια δ' ἄμφι σαῖς τύχαις,  
 ποῖ ποτε τῶνδε πόνων χρή σε τέρμα κέλσαντ'  
 ἐσιδεῖν· ἀκίχητα γὰρ ἦθεα καὶ κέαρ  
 185 ἀπαράμυθον ἔχει Κρόνου παῖς.

Πρ. οἶδ' ὅτι τραχὺς καὶ παρ' ἑαυτῷ  
 τὸ δίκαιον ἔχων· ἔμπας δ', οἴω,  
 μαλακογνῶμων  
 ἔσται ποθ', ὅταν ταύτῃ ῥαισθῇ·  
 190 τὴν δ' ἀτέραμνον στορέσας ὀργὴν  
 εἰς ἄρθμον ἐμοὶ καὶ φιλότητα  
 σπεύδων σπεύδοντί ποθ' ἥξει.

Χο. πάντ' ἐκκάλυψον καὶ γέγων' ἡμῖν λόγον,  
 ποίῳ λαβὼν σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάματι  
 195 οὕτως ἀτίμως καὶ πικρῶς αἰκίζεται·  
 δίδαξον ἡμᾶς, εἴ τι μὴ βλάβη λόγῳ.

Πρ. ἄλγεινὰ μὲν μοι καὶ λέγειν ἐστὶν τάδε,  
 ἄλγος δὲ σιγᾶν· πανταχῇ δὲ δύσποτμα.  
 ἐπεὶ τάχιστ' ἥρξαντο δαίμονες χόλου  
 200 στάσις τ' ἐν ἀλλήλοισιν ὠροθύνετο,  
 οἳ μὲν θέλοντες ἐκβαλεῖν ἔδρας Κρόνον,  
 ὥς Ζεὺς ἀνάσσοι δῆθεν, οἱ δὲ τοῦμπαλιν

182 δ' Tri : γὰρ ceteri (unde τιθέμενος in 164 Pauw)

183 ποῖ Blaydes : ὅποι, ὅπα, ὅπη codd.

187 ἔμπας δ' Griffith : Ζεὺς· ἀλλ' ἔμπας Ω (Ζεὺς· ἀλλ' iam delevit Bothe)

## CHORUS

Antistrophe 2

180 You are bold, and these bitter pains do not  
Make you relax your boldness at all,  
But you are speaking too freely.  
A piercing fear agitates my heart;  
I am afraid because of what is happening to you,  
Afraid of where in this ordeal I should look for you to reach  
185 A haven of relief. For the ways of Kronos's son  
Are beyond reach and his heart cannot be swayed.

## PROMETHEUS

I know that he is harsh and keeps  
His own kind of justice. Still, I think,  
His intent will someday be softened  
When he is smashed in the way I said:  
190 He will at some time smooth his harsh anger  
And eagerly come to a close bond of friendship  
With me who will be eagerly waiting.

## CHORUS-LEADER

195 Reveal and tell us the whole story: on what  
Charge did Zeus have you arrested and now  
Abuses you so dishonourably and harshly?  
Instruct us, unless the telling somehow hurts you.

## PROMETHEUS

200 It is painful for me to speak of this, but painful also  
To be silent; in either case, the fates are bad.  
As soon as the gods began their angry strife  
And war broke out among the various factions –  
Some wishing to hurl Kronos from his position,  
That Zeus be lord instead, others eager for

- σπεύδοντες ὥς Ζεὺς μήποτ' ἄρξειεν θεῶν,  
 ἐνταῦθ' ἐγὼ τὰ λῶστα βουλευῶν πιθεῖν  
 205 Τιτᾶνας, Οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ Χθονὸς τέκνα,  
 οὐκ ἡδυνήθην· αἰμύλας δὲ μηχανὰς  
 ἀτιμάσαντες καρτεροῖς φρονήμασιν  
 ὦντ' ἀμοχθεὶ πρὸς βίαν τε δεσπόσειν·  
 ἐμοὶ δὲ μήτηρ οὐχ ἅπαξ μόνον Θέμις  
 210 καὶ Γαῖα - πολλῶν ὀνομάτων μορφή μία -  
 τὸ μέλλον ἦ κρανοῖτο προυτεθεσπίζει,  
 ὥς οὐ κατ' ἰσχὺν οὐδὲ πρὸς τὸ καρτερὸν  
 χρεῖη, δόλω δὲ τοὺς ὑπερσχόντας κρατεῖν.  
 τοιαῦτ' ἐμοῦ λόγοισιν ἐξηγουμένου  
 215 οὐκ ἡξίωσαν οὐδὲ προσβλέψαι τὸ πᾶν.  
 κράτιστα δὴ μοι τῶν παρεστώτων τότε  
 ἐφαίνεται' εἶναι προσλαβόντα μητέρα  
 ἐκόνθ' ἐκόντι Ζηνὶ συμπαραστατεῖν·  
 ἐμαῖς δὲ βουλαῖς Ταρτάρου μελαμβαθῆς  
 220 κευθμῶν καλύπτει τὸν παλαιγενῆ Κρόνον  
 αὐτοῖσι συμμάχοισι. τοιάδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ  
 ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ὠφελημένος  
 κακῇσι τιμαῖς ταῖσδέ μ' ἀντημείψατο.  
 ἔνεστι γάρ πως τοῦτο τῇ τυραννίδι  
 225 νόσημα, τοῖς φίλοισι μὴ πεποιθέναι.  
 ὃ δ' οὖν ἐρωτᾷτ', αἰτίαν καθ' ἣντινα  
 αἰκίζεται με, τοῦτο δὴ σαφηνιῶ.  
 ὅπως τάχιστα τὸν πατρῶον ἐς θρόνον  
 καθέζετ', εὐθὺς δαίμοσιν νέμει γέρα  
 230 ἄλλοισιν ἄλλα, καὶ διεστοιχίζετο

211 κρανοῖτο Elmsley : κραίνοιτο Ω

213 χρεῖη Pearson : χρεῖ' ἢ vel χρῆ ἢ codd. ὑπερσχόντας Musgrave : ὑπερέχοντας Ω

223 κακῇσι West (vid. West 1998 Praefatio XXXVI) : κακῇσι Lc κακαῖσι cett.

τιμαῖς D W P<sup>7p</sup> : ποιναῖς M cett.

205 The opposite, that Zeus never rule the gods –  
At that point I, though giving best counsel  
To the Titans, children of Ouranos and Earth,  
Could not persuade them; they disesteemed  
Wily tricks and thought they could easily gain  
Mastery through strength alone and by brute force.  
As well, more than once my mother Themis  
210 – Gaia, Earth, is another of her many names –  
Had prophesied to me how the future would turn out,  
That they were destined to win power who  
Showed superior guile, not force or might.  
Such was the information I expounded fully,  
215 But they didn't deign to give it so much as a glance.  
The best of the possibilities then before me  
Seemed to me to take my mother as ally  
And willingly join sides with a willing Zeus;  
It was through my devising that Tartaros's  
220 Cavernous blackness covers ancient Kronos  
With all his allies. In return for such benefits  
Received from me the tyrant of the gods  
Made recompense to me with these foul rewards;  
For this is the malady to which tyranny  
225 Is somehow prone, to withhold trust from friends.  
But about what you've asked, the reason why  
He's treating me outrageously, I'll explain:  
No sooner had he taken his seat on his father's  
Throne than he began assigning prizes  
230 Among the various gods, and divided up

- ἀρχήν· βροτῶν δὲ τῶν ταλαιπώρων λόγον  
 οὐκ ἔσχεν οὐδέν', ἀλλ' αἰστώσας γένος  
 τὸ πᾶν ἔχρηζεν ἄλλο φιτῦσαι νέον.  
 καὶ τοῖσιν οὐδεὶς ἀντέβαινε πλὴν ἐμοῦ,  
 235 ἐγὼ δ' ἐτόλμης· ἐξελυσάμην βροτοῦς  
 τὸ μὴ διαρραισθέντας εἰς Ἅιδου μολεῖν.  
 τῷ τοι τοιαῖσδε πημονῇσι κάμπτομαι,  
 πάσχειν μὲν ἀλγεινῇσιν, οἰκτρᾶσιν δ' ἰδεῖν·  
 240 θνητοὺς δ' ἐν οἴκτῳ προθέμενος, τούτου τυχεῖν  
 οὐκ ἠξιώθην αὐτός, ἀλλὰ νηλεῶς  
 ᾧδ' ἐρρύθμισμαι, Ζηνὶ δυσκλεῆς θέα.  
 Χο. σιδηρόφρων γε καὶ πέτρας εἰργασμένος  
 ὅστις, Προμηθεῦ, σοῖσιν οὐ ξυνασχαλᾷ  
 μόχθοις· ἐγὼ γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν εἰσιδεῖν τάδε  
 245 ἔχρηζον, εἰσιδοῦσά τ' ἠλγύνθην κέαρ.  
 Πρ. καὶ μὴν φίλοις ἐλαινὸς εἰσορᾶν ἐγώ.  
 Χο. μή πού τι προύβης τῶνδε καὶ περαιτέρω;  
 Πρ. θνητούς γ' ἔπαυσα μὴ προδέρκεσθαι μόρον.  
 Χο. τὸ ποῖον εὐρὼν τῆσδε φάρμακον νόσου;  
 250 Πρ. τυφλὰς ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐλπίδας κατώκισα.  
 Χο. μέγ' ὠφέλημα τοῦτ' ἐδωρήσω βροτοῖς.  
 Πρ. πρὸς τοῖσδε μέντοι πῦρ ἐγὼ σφιν ὥπασα.  
 Χο. καὶ νῦν φλογωπὸν πῦρ ἔχουσ' ἐφήμεροι;  
 Πρ. ἅφ' οὗ γε πολλὰς ἐκμαθήσονται τέχνας.  
 255 Χο. τοιοῖσδε δὴ σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάμασιν –  
 Πρ. αἰκίζεται γε, κούδα μὴ χαλᾷ κακῶν.  
 Χο. οὐδ' ἐστὶν ἄθλου τέρμα σοι προκείμενον;

237 πημονῇσι I Ba Δ : -αῖσι fere cett.

238 ἀλγεινῇσιν, οἰκτρᾶσιν West : ἀλγειναῖσιν, οἰκτραῖσιν Ω

242 γε West (v. 953 conferens) : τε vel τι codd. (τοι Wilamowitz)

243 ξυνασχαλᾷ Xc G Tri : συνασχαλᾷ cett.

255–257 choro attribuunt codd., 256 Prometheo reddidit Welcker

256 γε Ribbeck : τε fere Ω



The rule; of the humans, however, in all their misery  
He took no account, but wanted to annihilate  
The entire race and plant another new one.

235 This project no one contravened but me;  
It was I who dared: I prevented humans  
From being smashed to bits and going to Hades.  
For this reason am I twisted with such torments,  
Painful to suffer, pitiful to look upon;  
240 Though I put mortals first in my pity, I was not  
Thought worthy of it myself, but am thus mercilessly  
Brought into line, a sight disgraceful to Zeus.

CHORUS-LEADER

Yes, iron-hearted and carved from stone must be  
The one who does not share in indignation  
At your sufferings, Prometheus. For I wish I were not seeing  
245 This, and seeing it, my heart aches.

PROMETHEUS

Indeed, to friendly eyes I'm a pitiable sight.

CHORUS-LEADER

Surely you didn't go further than you've told?

PROMETHEUS

Yes, I stopped mortals from brooding on death.

CHORUS-LEADER

What kind of medicine did you find for this sickness?

PROMETHEUS

250 I made to lodge within them blind hopes.

CHORUS-LEADER

A great benefit was this gift you gave to humans.

PROMETHEUS

Moreover, I also bestowed fire upon them.

CHORUS-LEADER

So short-lived creatures now have blazing fire?

PROMETHEUS

Yes, and from it they will learn many skills.

CHORUS-LEADER

255 Are such, then, the grounds on which Zeus...

PROMETHEUS

Foully mistreats me, and in no way relaxes his abuse.

CHORUS-LEADER

Is there no end assigned for your ordeal?

- Πρ. οὐκ ἄλλο γ' οὐδέν, πλὴν ὅταν κείνῳ δοκῇ.  
 Χο. δόξει δὲ πῶς; τίς ἐλπίς; οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὅτι  
 260 ἥμαρτες; ὥς δ' ἥμαρτες, οὐτ' ἐμοὶ λέγειν  
 καθ' ἡδονὴν, σοί τ' ἄλγος. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν  
 μεθῶμεν, ἄθλου δ' ἔκλυσιν ζήτει τινά.  
 Πρ. ἐλαφρὸν, ὅστις πημάτων ἔξω πόδα  
 ἔχει, παραινεῖν νουθετεῖν τε τὸν κακῶς  
 265 πράσσοντ'. ἐγὼ δὲ ταῦθ' ἅπαντ' ἠπιστάμην·  
 ἐκὼν ἐκὼν ἥμαρτον, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι,  
 θνητοῖς δ' ἀρήγων αὐτὸς ἡνρόμην πόνους·  
 οὐ μὴν τι ποιναῖς γ' ὥόμην τοῖασί με  
 κατισχνανεῖσθαι πρὸς πέτραις πεδαρσίοις  
 270 τυχόντ' ἐρήμου τοῦδ' ἀγείτονος πάγου.  
 καί μοι τὰ μὲν παρόντα μὴ δύρεσθ' ἄχῃ,  
 πέδοι δὲ βᾶσαι τὰς προσερπούσας τύχας  
 ἀκούσαθ', ὥς μάθητε διὰ τέλους τὸ πᾶν.  
 πίθεσθέ μοι, πίθεσθε, συμπονήσατε  
 275 τῷ νῦν μογοῦντι· πάντα τοι πλανωμένῃ  
 πρὸς ἄλλοτ' ἄλλον πημονὴ προσιζάνει.  
 Χο. οὐκ ἀκούσαις ἐπεθώϋξας  
 τοῦτο, Προμηθεῦ· καὶ νῦν ἐλαφρῷ  
 ποδὶ κραιπνόστυτον θᾶκον προλιποῦς·  
 280 αἰθέρα θ' ἀγνὸν πόρον οἰωνῶν  
 ὀκριοέσση χθονὶ τῇδε πελῶ·  
 τοὺς σοὺς δὲ πόνους  
 χρήζω διὰ παντὸς ἀκούσαι.

264–5 τὸν... πράσσοντ' Pearson : τοὺς... πράσσοντας Ω (vid. West 1979: 141, ubi *Trag. adesp.* 342 N profert, ἐλαφρὸν παραινεῖν < τῷ > κακῶς πεπραγότι)

268 τοῖασί West : τοῖαισί fere Ω

275 πάντα Herwerden : ταῦτά Ω

## PROMETHEUS

None other than when he so decrees.

## CHORUS-LEADER

What hope is there that he will decree? Don't you see  
 260 That you did wrong? Still, saying you did wrong  
 Brings me no pleasure and causes you pain; let's leave it.  
 Rather, look for some release from your ordeal.

## PROMETHEUS

It's a light matter for someone who stays out  
 Of misery's way to admonish and give advice  
 265 To one who's suffering. I knew all this:  
 I did wrong, but by choice, by choice, I'll not deny it,  
 And in aiding mortals I found troubles for myself.  
 But I never imagined my penalties would be such,  
 Left to shrivel away high up on a cliff,  
 270 Consigned to this remote, deserted rock.  
 However, don't lament my present sorrows,  
 But step to the ground and listen to what will occur  
 In future, so you can learn everything fully.

*(They hesitate to step down from their cart.)*

Do as I say, do it, share the suffering  
 275 Of one now in pain; for suffering is totally vagrant,  
 Accosting different people at different times.

*(They begin to step from the cart.*

*While they are chanting the following anapaestic lines,  
 Okeanos is swung in above on the crane,  
 without attracting the notice  
 of either Prometheus or the Chorus.)*

## CHORUS

Your shouts did not fall on unwilling ears,  
 Prometheus. So now, I shall leave the speedy  
 Car and air, holy  
 280 Path of birds, and nimbly  
 Step to this rocky ground;  
 I want to hear  
 A full account of your sufferings.

## ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

- 285 ἦκω δολιχῆς τέρμα κελεύθου  
 διαμειψάμενος πρὸς σέ, Προμηθεῦ,  
 τὸν περυγώκη τόνδ' οἶωνόν  
 γνώμη στομίων ἄτερ εὐθύνων·  
 ταῖς σαῖς δὲ τύχαις, ἴσθι, συναλγῶ.  
 τό τε γάρ με, δοκῶ, ξυγγενὲς οὕτως  
 290 ἐπαναγκάζει,  
 χωρίς τε γένους οὐκ ἔστιν ὅτῳ  
 μεῖζονα μοῖραν νείμαιμ' ἢ σοί.  
 γνώση δὲ τάδ' ὥς ἔτυμ', οὐδὲ μάτην  
 χαριτογλωσσεῖν ἔνι μοι· φέρε γὰρ  
 295 σήμαιν' ὅτι χρή σοι ξυμπράσσειν·  
 οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἐρεῖς ὥς' Ωκεανοῦ  
 φίλος ἐστὶ βεβαιότερός σοι.
- Πρ. ἔα, τί χρήμα; καὶ σὺ δὴ πόνων ἐμῶν  
 ἦκεις ἐπόπτης; πῶς ἐτόλμησας λιπὼν  
 300 ἐπώνυμόν τε ῥεῦμα καὶ πετρηρεφῇ  
 αὐτόκτιτ' ἄντρα τὴν σιδηρομήτορα  
 ἐλθεῖν ἐς αἶαν; ἢ θεωρήσων τύχας  
 ἐμὰς ἀφιῆσαι καὶ ξυνασχαλῶν κακοῖς;  
 δέρκου θέαμα, τόνδε τὸν Διὸς φίλον,  
 305 τὸν ξυγκαταστήσαντα τὴν τυραννίδα,  
 οἴαις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ πημονῇσι κάμπομαι.
- Ωκ. ὁρῶ, Προμηθεῦ, καὶ παραινέσαι γέ σοι  
 θέλω τὰ λῶστα, καίπερ ὄντι ποικίλῳ.  
 γίγνωσκε σαυτὸν καὶ μεθάρμοσαι τρόπους

295 ξυμπράσσειν Brunck : συμπράττειν Ω

305 ξυγκαταστήσαντα Brunck : συν- Ω

306 πημονῇσι West : πημοναῖσι Ω

*(Okeanos swings into view.*

*He is mounted on a fantastic  
winged creature, a "hippocamp".)*

## OKEANOS

285 I have come to you, Prometheus,  
After completing a long journey;  
I control this swift-winged bird  
By thought alone, without a bridle.  
You can be sure that I share in the pain  
Of your misfortune. For kinship, I think,  
290 Compels me to do this,  
And apart from the family connection there is no one  
I would show more deference to than you.  
You will find out how true this is, for it is not  
Part of my nature to speak only to please.  
295 Just indicate what I must do to assist you;  
For you will never say that you have  
A firmer friend than Okeanos.

## PROMETHEUS

What's this? Have you, too, come to behold  
My ordeal? How did you dare to leave  
300 Your namesake-stream and cave cut out of rock  
To come to the land that is mother-source of iron?  
Are you here, then, to view my situation  
And join in indignation at my mistreatment?  
Gaze upon the sight! Look at this friend of Zeus,  
305 The one who helped set up his tyranny!  
See with what torments I am twisted by him!

## OKEANOS

I see, Prometheus, and I really want to give you  
The best advice, although you're astute enough:  
Come to know yourself, become a new



- 310 νέους· νέος γὰρ καὶ τύραννος ἐν θεοῖς.  
εἰ δ' ὧδε τραχεῖς καὶ τεθηγμένους λόγους  
ρίψεις, τάχ' ἄν σου καὶ μακρὰν ἀνωτέρω  
θακῶν κλύοι Ζεὺς, ὥστε σοι τὸν νῦν ὄχλον  
παρόντα μόχθων παιδιὰν εἶναι δοκεῖν.
- 315 ἀλλ', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', ἃς ἔχεις ὀργὰς ἄφες,  
ζήτει δὲ τῶνδε πημάτων ἀπαλλαγὰς.  
ἀρχαῖ' ἴσως σοι φαίνομαι λέγειν τάδε·  
τοιαῦτα μέντοι τῆς ἄγαν ὑψηγόρου  
γλώσσης, Προμηθεῦ, τὰπίχειρα γίγνεται.
- 320 σὺ δ' οὐδέπω ταπεινός, οὐδ' εἴκεις κακοῖς,  
πρὸς τοῖς παροῦσι δ' ἄλλα προσλαβεῖν θέλεις;  
οὐκουν ἔμοιγε χρώμενος διδασκάλῳ  
πρὸς κέντρα κῶλον ἐκτενεῖς, ὁρῶν ὅτι  
τραχὺς μόναρχος οὐδ' ὑπεύθυνος κρατεῖ.
- 325 καὶ νῦν ἐγὼ μὲν εἶμι καὶ πειράσομαι  
ἐὰν δύνωμαι τῶνδ' ἐκλῦσαι πόνων·  
σὺ δ' ἡσύχαζε μηδ' ἄγαν λαβροστόμει.  
ἦ οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀκριβῶς, ὦν περισσόφρων, ὅτι  
γλώσση ματαίᾳ ζημία προστρίβεται;
- 330 Πρ. ζηλῶ σ' ὀθούνεκ' ἐκτὸς αἰτίας κυρεῖς,  
πάντων μετασχὼν καὶ τετολμηκῶς ἐμοί.  
καὶ νῦν ἔασον μηδέ σοι μελησάτω·  
πάντως γὰρ οὐ πείσεις νιν· οὐ γὰρ εὐπιθής.  
πάπταινε δ' αὐτὸς μὴ τι πημανθῆς ὁδῶ.
- 335 Ωκ. πολλῶ γ' ἀμείνων τοὺς πέλας φρενοῦν ἔφυς  
ἢ σαυτόν· ἔργῳ κοῦ λόγῳ τεκμαίρομαι.  
ὀρμώμενον δὲ μηδαμῶς ἀντισπάσης·

313 ὄχλον Doederlein : χόλον Ω

331 "male quadrat cum 234," West; πάντων μετασχεῖν οὐ τετολμηκῶς ἐμοί J. D Denniston CR 47 (1933) 164 approbante Lloyd-Jones 2003: 59. Lacunam post 331 statuit Groeneboom (*Mnem.* 1927, p. 295).



- 310 Person! For a new tyrant rules the gods.  
 If you keep hurling such rough and sharpened  
 Verbal missiles, Zeus, though seated far  
 Above, might hear you, so that your present throng  
 Of agonies will seem mere child's play.
- 315 But, poor sufferer, cast off your angry mood,  
 Look for a way to rid yourself of these miseries.  
 Perhaps my advice seems a little old-fashioned to you?  
 Well, such pains as yours are just the pay-out  
 Of a too extravagant tongue, Prometheus.
- 320 You're not yet humble? You don't yield to troubles,  
 But are willing to add others to your present woes?  
 Don't – at least if you'll let me instruct you –  
 Kick against the goad, for you must see  
 That a harsh monarch wields power, without controls.
- 325 Well, I'll be on my way now, and will try,  
 If I can, to get you out of this ordeal;  
 You for your part keep quiet, no more harangues.  
 Or does it escape you, in your superior wisdom,  
 That a penalty is attached to foolish words?

## PROMETHEUS

- 330 I envy you for having escaped blame,  
 Though you shared in, and dared, everything with me.  
 And now leave off! Save your concern!  
 No way you'll persuade him, for he's not persuadable.  
 Be wary yourself that this trip not cost you some pain.

## OKEANOS

- 335 You're much better at enlightening your neighbours  
 Than yourself. I draw conclusions from facts,

*(He gestures to Prometheus.)*  
 not words.

No, don't try to resist my eagerness,

- αὐχῶ γὰρ αὐχῶ τήνδε δωρειὰν ἐμοὶ  
 δώσειν Δί', ὥστε τῶνδ' ἐκλῦσαι πόνων.
- 340 Πρ. τὰ μὲν σ' ἐπαινῶ κοῦ τι μὴ λήξω ποτέ,  
 προθυμίας γὰρ οὐδὲν ἐλλείπεις· ἀτὰρ  
 μηδὲν πόνει· μάτην γὰρ οὐδὲν ὠφελῶν  
 ἐμοὶ πονήσεις, εἴ τι καὶ πονεῖν θέλεις.  
 ἀλλ' ἡσύχαζε σαυτὸν ἐκποδῶν ἔχων·
- 345 ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐ, κεῖ δυστυχῶ, τοῦδ' οὔνεκα  
 θέλοισ' ἂν ὡς πλείστοισι πημονὰς τυχεῖν.  
 οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ με καὶ κασιγνήτου τύχαι  
 τεύρουσ' Ἄτλαντος, ὃς πρὸς ἐσπέρους τόπους  
 ἔστηκε κίον' οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ χθονὸς
- 350 ὤμοις ἐρείδων, ἄχθος οὐκ εὐάγκαλον.  
 τὸν γηγενῇ τε Κιλικίων οἰκήτορα  
 ἄντρων ἰδὼν ὥκτιρα, δάϊον τέρας  
 ἑκατογκάρανον, πρὸς βίαν χειρούμενον,  
 †Τυφῶνα θοῦρον πᾶσιν ὃς ἀντέστη θεοῖς†
- 355 σμερδνῆσι γαμφηλῆσι συρίζον φόβον·  
 ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ἥστραπτε γοργωπὸν σέλας,  
 ὡς τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδ' ἐκπέρσων βία·  
 ἀλλ' ἦλθεν αὐτῷ Ζηνὸς ἄγρυπνον βέλος,  
 καταιβάτης κεραυνὸς ἐκπνέων φλόγα,
- 360 ὃς αὐτὸν ἐξέπληξε τῶν ὑψηγόρων  
 κομπασμάτων· φρένας γὰρ εἰς αὐτὰς τυπεῖς  
 ἐφεσάλωθη κάξεβροντήθη σθένος.  
 καὶ νῦν ἀχρεῖον καὶ παράορον δέμας  
 κεῖται στενωποῦ πλησίον θαλασσίῳ
- 365 ἱπόμενος ῥίζησιν Αἰτναίαις ὑπο·

340 κοῦ τι μὴ Nauck : κοῦδὲ μὴ vel κοῦδαμῇ codd.

345 οὐ, κεῖ West (οὐ κεῖ Q Lc) : οὐκ εἰ plerique οὔνεκα Lb : εἵνεκα plerique

354 metrum claudicat, sensu non reprehendendo

355 σμερδνῆσι Eustathios 579.20 (qui itidem γαμφηλῆσι scripsit, γαμφηλαῖσι plerique) :  
 – αἰσι Ω φόβον M alii : φόνον plerique

For I'm really, really confident that Zeus will grant me  
This gift, so he'll release you from this ordeal.

## PROMETHEUS

- 340 In a way I praise you and will never cease doing so,  
For you are not lacking in eagerness; but don't trouble  
Yourself, for the trouble you take won't help me at all,  
If indeed you're willing to go to some trouble.  
But keep quiet, and stay out of the way,
- 345 For, though I suffer misfortune, I wouldn't for that reason  
Wish as many as possible to be miserable too.  
Certainly not, for the misfortunes of my brother Atlas  
Cause me distress, who stands in the westward region  
Holding a pillar between heaven and earth
- 350 Propped on his shoulders, a burden not easy to bear.  
And I feel pity, too, as I see the earth-born  
Resident of the Cilician cave, the fearsome  
Hundred-headed monster, subdued by force,  
Furious Typhon, who withstood all gods
- 355 Sibilating fear with his terrible jaws.  
He flashed bolts of savage flame from his eyes,  
Intent on dislodging Zeus from his tyranny by force.  
But Zeus's unsleeping missile came down on him,  
A thunderbolt shooting down and breathing fire
- 360 That frightened him right out of his extravagant  
Boasting. For he was struck right to his heart,  
His strength burnt to ashes, blasted to ruin.  
Now only a useless and drooping hulk,  
He's lying just beside the straits of the sea
- 365 Trapped beneath the roots of Mt. Etna.

- κορυφαῖς δ' ἐν ἄκραις ἥμενος μυδροκτυπεῖ  
 Ἕφαιστος, ἐνθεν ἐκραγήσονται ποτε  
 ποταμοὶ πυρὸς δάπτοντες ἀγρίαις γνάθοις  
 τῆς καλλικάρπου Σικελίας λευροῦς γύας·  
 370 τοιόνδε Τυφῶς ἐξαναζέσει χόλον  
 θερμοῖς ἀπλάτου βέλεσι πυρπνόου ζάλης,  
 καίπερ κεραυνῷ Ζηνὸς ἠνθρακωμένος.  
 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἄπειρος, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ διδασκάλου  
 χρῆξεις· σεαυτὸν σῶζ' ὅπως ἐπίστασαι·  
 375 ἐγὼ δὲ τὴν παροῦσαν ἀντλήσω τύχην,  
 ἔστ' ἂν Διὸς φρόνημα λωφήσῃ χόλου.  
 Ωκ. οὐκουν, Προμηθεῦ, τοῦτο γιγνώσκεις, ὅτι  
 ὀργῆς νοσοῦσης εἰσὶν ἱατροὶ λόγοι;  
 Πρ. ἐάν τις ἐν καιρῷ γε μαλθάσῃ κέαρ  
 380 καὶ μὴ σφριγῶντα θυμὸν ἰσχυαίνῃ βία.  
 Ωκ. ἐν τῷ προθυμεῖσθαι δὲ καὶ τολμᾶν τίνα  
 ὀρᾶς ἐνοῦσαν ζημίαν; δίδασκέ με.  
 Πρ. μόχθον περισσὸν κουφόνουν τ' εὐηθίαν.  
 Ωκ. ἔα με τῇδε τῇ νόσῳ νοσεῖν, ἐπεὶ  
 385 κέρδιστον εὖ φρονοῦντα μὴ φρονεῖν δοκεῖν.  
 Πρ. ἐμὸν δοκήσει τὰμπλάκημ' εἶναι τόδε.  
 Ωκ. σαφῶς μ' ἐς οἶκον σὸς λόγος στέλλει πάλιν.  
 Πρ. μὴ γάρ σε θρῆνος οὐμὸς εἰς ἔχθραν βάλλῃ.  
 Ωκ. ἦ τῷ νέον θακοῦντι παγκρατεῖς ἔδρας;

Seated atop the mountain, Hephaistos clangs  
His forge, from which in future will burst out  
Rivers of fire rending with savage jaws  
The smooth fields of fine crops in Sicily;  
370 Such bile Typhon will boil and spew out  
In a fiery storm that no one can approach,  
Though he has been turned to charcoal by Zeus' bolt.

But you are not unaware, nor do you need me  
As teacher. Save yourself as best you know how;  
375 For my part I'll drain out the present misfortune  
Until Zeus's proud spirit is relieved of its wrath.

OKEANOS

You know this, don't you, Prometheus, that  
Words are physicians for a sick disposition?

PROMETHEUS

Yes, if you poultice the heart at the right moment  
380 And not put pressure on a swollen spirit by force.

OKEANOS

Do you see some risk of penalty inherent  
In being eager and daring to act? Instruct me.

PROMETHEUS

I see pain that could have been spared and a flighty  
foolishness.

OKEANOS

Let me be sick with this sickness, then, since  
385 It's most profitable to be sensible and not seem so.

PROMETHEUS

That's what my fault will appear to have been.

OKEANOS

It's clear that your comments are sending me back home.

PROMETHEUS

Be careful that lamenting me not earn you hostility.

OKEANOS

With the one who just took his seat on the Throne-of-all-Power?

- 390 Πρ. τούτου φυλάσσου μή ποτ' ἄχθῃ κέαρ.  
 Ωκ. ἢ σή, Προμηθεῦ, συμφορὰ διδάσκαλος.  
 Πρ. στέλλου, κομίζου, σῶζε τὸν παρόντα νοῦν.  
 Ωκ. ὀρμωμένω μοι τόνδ' ἐθώϋξας λόγον·  
 λευρὰν γὰρ οἶμον αἰθέρος ψαίρει πτεροῖς  
 395 τετρασκελῆς οἰωνός· ἄσμενος δέ τ' ἂν  
 σταθμοῖς ἐν οἰκείοις κάμψειεν γόνυ.

Χο. στένω σε τᾶς οὐλομένης τύχας, Προμηθεῦ·

στρ. 1

- δακρυσίστακτον ἅπ' ὅσων  
 400 ῥαδινῶν λειβομένα ῥέος παρειὰν  
 νοτίοις ἔτεγξα παγαῖς.  
 ἀμέγαρτα γὰρ τάδε Ζεὺς  
 ἰδίοις νόμοις κρατύνων  
 ὑπερήφανον θεοῖς τοῖς  
 405 πάρος ἐνδείκνυσιν αἰχμάν.

πρόπασα δ' ἤδη στονόεν λέλακε χώρα,  
 μεγαλοσχήμενά τ' ἀρχαι-

ἀντ. 1

- οπρεπῇ < - - - > στένουσι τὰν σὰν  
 410 ξυνομαιμόνων τε τιμάν·  
 ὀπόσοι τ' ἔποικον ἀγνᾶς  
 Ἀσίας ἔδος νέμονται,  
 μεγαλοστόνοισι σοῖς πῆ-  
 μασι συγκάμνουσι θνατοί,

- 415 Κολχίδος τε γᾶς ἔνοικοι  
 παρθένοι μάχας ἄτρεστοι,

στρ. 2

394 οἶμον West (v. 2 adn. supra)

399 ἅπ' B O (metri gratia) : δ' ἅπ' vel τ' ἅπ' cett.

409 lacunam statuit Hermann < δακρυχέει > et στένουσα pro στένουσι Hermann < θ' ἐσπέραιοι > Wecklein < ῥαιομένην > West



PROMETHEUS

390 Yes, be on guard not to get *him* annoyed.

OKEANOS

Your misfortune, Prometheus, will be my teacher.

PROMETHEUS

Go, then! Be off! Hold on to what good sense you have!

OKEANOS

395 You've shouted this order to me who am eager to go,  
For my four-legged bird is skimming the smooth  
Path of air with his wings; he'll certainly be glad  
To bend his knee and rest in his home stable.

*(Okeanos and his marvellous beast  
swoop away on the crane.)*

CHORUS

Strophe 1

I groan for you, for your awful misfortune, Prometheus;  
My cheeks are drenched from shedding  
400 A flood of tears in moist streams  
Down from my tender eyes.  
These are the sad results of Zeus's power  
Wielded through his own laws,  
To show to the former gods  
405 His arrogant might.

Antistrophe 1

The entire earth now shrieks and groans,  
Groans to see your glorious  
And ancient privilege, and that of your  
410 Brothers, despoiled.  
All those, too, who dwell  
In holy Asia  
Share in suffering your miseries  
And add their loud laments,

415 And those who reside in the land of Kolchis,  
The maidens unflinching in battle,

Strophe 2

καὶ Σκύθης ὄμιλος, οἱ γὰς  
ἔσχατον τόπον ἀμφὶ Μαι-  
ῶτιν ἔχουσι λίμναν,

420 Ἀραβίας τ' ἄρειον ἄνθος, ἀντ. 2  
ὑψίκρημνον θ' οἱ πόλισμα  
Καυκάσου πέλας νέμουσι,  
δαῖος στρατός, ὄξυπρώ-  
ροις βρέμων ἐν αἰχμαῖς.

425 [μόνον δὴ πρόσθεν ἄλλον ἐν πόνοις  
δαμέντ' ἀκαμαντοδέτοις  
Τιτᾶνα λύμαις εἰσιδόμαν θεόν  
Ἄτλανθ', ὃς αἰὲν ὑπέροχον σθένος κραταιόν  
οὐράνιον τε πόλον  
430 νώτοις ὑποστεγάζει.]

βοᾷ δε πόντιος κλύδων ἐπωδ.  
ξυμπίτνων, στένει βυθός,  
κελαινὸς Ἀἴδος ὑποβρέμει μυχὸς γᾶς,  
παγαί θ' ἀγνωρύτων ποταμῶν  
435 στένουσιν ἄλγος οἰκτρόν.

Πρ. μήτοι χλιδῇ δοκεῖτε μηδ' αὐθαδία  
σιγᾶν με· συννοία δὲ δάπτομαι κέαρ,  
ὄρων ἐμαυτὸν ὧδε προυσελούμενον.  
καίτοι θεοῖσι τοῖς νέοις τούτοις γέρα  
440 τίς ἄλλος ἢ ᾧ παντελῶς διώρισεν;

421 ὑψίκρημνον θ' Ω ("θ' non legisse videtur scholiast [T]," Herington 1972: 135)

422 νέμουσι M P<sup>70</sup> H B Tri : νέμονται cett. (vid. 412)

425–30 primum delevit Badham ("certainly corrupt and perhaps...interpolated", Lloyd-Jones 2003: 61)

433 κελαινὸς Lachmann: κελαινὸς δ' Ω

And Skythia's throngs  
 Who dwell at the ends of the earth  
 Near Lake Maiotis,

420 And the warlike flower of Arabia, Antistrophe 2  
 And those who inhabit a city high on a rock  
 Near Kaukasos Mountain,  
 A fearsome band whose arms  
 Thunder mightily as they march.

425 [There is only one previous Titan god  
 Whom I saw in distress, overwhelmed  
 By outrageous bonds that never weary,  
 Atlas, who props up the outstanding powerful strength  
 And vault of heaven  
 430 On his back.]

The wave of the sea falling Epode  
 Resounds, the sea's depths groan;  
 Deep in the earth Hades's black recess roars,  
 And streams of holy flowing rivers  
 435 Moan in pity for your pain.  
*(An interval of silence follows the choral ode.)*

## PROMETHEUS

Don't think I am silent from snobbishness  
 Or stubborn pride; my heart is rent with brooding  
 As I see myself treated thus outrageously.  
 And yet the honours these new gods possess,  
 440 Who else but I divided them definitively?

- ἀλλ' αὐτὰ σιγῶ, καὶ γὰρ εἰδυίαισιν ἄν  
 ὑμῖν λέγοιμι· τὰν βροτοῖς δὲ πῆματα  
 ἀκούσαθ', ὥς σφας νηπίους ὄντας τὸ πρὶν  
 ἔννοους ἔθηκα καὶ φρενῶν ἐπηβόλους.  
 445 λέξω δέ, μέμψιν οὔτιν' ἀνθρώποις ἔχων,  
 ἀλλ' ὦν δέδωκ' εὐνοίαν ἐξηγούμενος·  
 οἱ πρῶτα μὲν βλέποντες ἔβλεπον μάτην,  
 κλύοντες οὐκ ἤκουον, ἀλλ' ὄνειράτων  
 ἀλίγκιοι μορφῇσι τὸν μακρὸν βίον  
 450 ἔφυρον εἰκῇ πάντα, κοῦτε πλινθυφεῖς  
 δόμους προσεῖλους ἦσαν, οὐ ξυλουργίαν,  
 κατώρυχες δ' ἔναιον ὥστ' ἀήσυροι  
 μύρμηκες ἀντρων ἐν μυχοῖς ἀνηλίοις.  
 ἦν δ' οὐδὲν αὐτοῖς οὔτε χείματος τέκμαρ  
 455 οὔτ' ἀνθεμώδους ἦρος οὔτε καρπίμου  
 θέρους βέβαιον, ἀλλ' ἄτερ γνώμης τὸ πᾶν  
 ἔπρασσον, ἔστε δὴ σφιν ἀντολὰς ἐγὼ  
 ἄστρον ἔδειξα τάς τε δυσκρίτους δύσεις.  
 καὶ μὴν ἀριθμόν, ἔξοχον σοφισμάτων,  
 460 ἐξηῦρον αὐτοῖς, γραμμάτων τε συνθέσεις,  
 Μνήμης ἀρωγὴν μουσομήτορ' ἐργάνην.  
 κᾶζευξα πρῶτος ἐν ζυγοῖσι κνώδαλα,  
 ζεύγλῃσι δουλεύσοντα σάγμασίν θ' ὅπως  
 θνητοῖς μεγίστων διάδοχοι μοχθημάτων  
 465 γένοιθ'· ὑφ' ἄρμά τ' ἤγαγον φιληνίους  
 ἵππους, ἄγαλμα τῆς ὑπερπλούτου χλιδῆς.  
 θαλασσόπλαγκτα δ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἀντ' ἐμοῦ  
 λινόπτερ' ἦρε ναυτίλων ὀχήματα.

442 πῆματα suspectum ("exspectatur 'beneficia'," West)

449 μορφῇσι West: -αῖσι Ω

461 μνήμης ἀρωγὴν Blaydes : μνήμην vel μνήμην θ' ἀπάντων codd. ἐργάνην M<sup>ac</sup> Stobaeus 2.4.2: ἐργάτιν vel ἐργάτην codd.

463 ζεύγλῃσι vel ζεύγλῃσι H<sup>ss</sup> Y W N Q K L La : -αῖσι cett. δουλεύσοντα Kirchhoff : δουλεύσαντα vel δουλεύοντα codd. σάγμασίν Pauw : σώμασίν Ω

But I keep silent about this, for I would be telling you  
What you already know. But listen to me tell  
Of humans' sufferings, how I made them, mere infants  
Before, intelligent and possessed of minds.  
445 I'll speak, not out of reproach for humans,  
But to explain the grounds of goodwill for what I gave them.  
At first they looked about them, but looked in vain;  
Hearing they did not hear, but like mere shapes  
Of dreams they led their long lives randomly  
450 And in total confusion. They did not know how to build  
Houses of brick against the sun, nor carpentry,  
But they lived underground like scurrying ants  
In the dark and sunless recesses of caves.  
They had no sure sign, either, of winter  
455 Nor of flower-fragrant spring, nor of fruitful  
Summer, but they carried on entirely  
Without rational thought, until I showed them  
The stars' risings and settings, difficult to discern.  
And more: number, that mental feat par excellence,  
460 I discovered and gave them, and the combining of letters,  
Memory's helper, hardworking mother of the arts.  
I, too, was the first to put beasts in yokes  
To endure servitude with yoke-straps and saddles  
So as to relieve mortals of their hardest toils.  
465 I also made horses docile for drawing chariots,  
A delight to be indulged by luxurious wealth.  
And none but I discovered a way for sailors  
To roam the sea in vessels with linen wings.

- 470      τοιαῦτα μηχανήματ' ἐξευρών τάλας  
 βροτοῖσιν, αὐτὸς οὐκ ἔχω σόφισμ' ὅτω  
 τῆς νῦν παρούσης πημονῆς ἀπαλλαγῶ.  
 Χο.    πέπονθας αἰκὲς πῆμ'· ἀποσφαλεῖς φρενῶν  
 πλανᾷ, κακὸς δ' ἱατρὸς ὥς τις εἰς νόσον  
 πεσὼν ἀθυμεῖς καὶ σεαυτὸν οὐκ ἔχεις  
 475    εὔρεῖν ὁποίοις φαρμάκοις ἰάσιμος.  
 Πρ.    τὰ λοιπά μου κλύουσα θαυμάσῃ πλέον,  
 οἴας τέχνας τε καὶ πόρους ἐμησάμην.  
 τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, εἴ τις εἰς νόσον πέσοι,  
 οὐκ ἦν ἀλέξημ' οὐδέν, οὔτε βρώσιμον,  
 480    οὐ χριστόν, οὐδὲ πιστόν, ἀλλὰ φαρμάκων  
 χρεῖα κατεσκέλλοντο, πρίν γ' ἐγὼ σφισιν  
 ἔδειξα κράσεις ἡπίων ἀκεσμάτων  
 αἷς τὰς ἀπάσας ἐξαμύνονται νόσους.  
 τρόπους τε πολλοὺς μαντικῆς ἐστοίχισα,  
 485    κᾶκρινα πρῶτος ἐξ ὀνειράτων ἃ χρὴ  
 ὕπαρ γενέσθαι, κληδόνας τε δυσκρίτους  
 ἐγνώρισ' αὐτοῖς ἐνοδίους τε συμβόλους,  
 γαμψωνύχων τε πτῆσιν οἰωνῶν σκεθρῶς  
 διώρισ', οἵτινές τε δεξιὸι φύσιν  
 490    εὐωνύμους τε, καὶ δίαιταν ἦντινα  
 ἔχουσ' ἕκαστοι, καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους τίνες  
 ἔχθραι τε καὶ στέργηθρα καὶ συνεδρίαι,  
 σπλάγχνων τε λειότητα, καὶ χροιάν τίνα  
 ἔχουσ' ἂν εἴη δαίμοσιν πρὸς ἡδονὴν  
 495    χολή, λοβοῦ τε ποικίλην εὐμορφίαν·  
 κνίσση τε κῶλα ξυγκαλυπτὰ καὶ μακρὰν

472 αἰκὲς Porson (ἀικὲς Dawes) : ἀεικὲς Ω

484 τε M O : δε cett.

494-5 ἔχουσ'... χολή Wieseler : ἔχοντ'...χολῆς Ω (χολῆ B)



470        Though I invented such contrivances for humans,  
          In my wretchedness now I have no clever device  
          To get myself out of my present misery.

## CHORUS-LEADER

          Your mistreatment is shameful. You've taken leave of your senses,  
          And like some inferior doctor who's become ill  
          You're in despair and are unable to discover  
475        By what medicine you yourself can be cured.

## PROMETHEUS

          When you hear the rest from me you'll be more amazed,  
          What sort of skills and methods I devised.  
          The greatest was, if anyone fell ill,  
          There was no remedy, either to be eaten,  
480        Or rubbed on, or drunk, but because of lack  
          Of medicine they wasted away, until  
          I showed them how to blend soothing remedies  
          By which to defend against all diseases.  
          And I sorted out many ways of prophecy  
485        And first determined what must follow after dreams  
          When the dreamers awake, and I helped them understand  
          Omens in obscure utterances and on journeys,  
          And I defined clearly what the various flights of crook-taloned  
          Birds meant, which ones were by nature favourable,  
490        Which unlucky, the meaning of their different  
          Ways of life, their enmities, loves, associations,  
          As well as the smoothness of the entrails, and what colour  
          The victims' gall-bladder would have to have  
          To be pleasing to the gods, and what constituted  
495        An attractive, variegated liver-lobe.  
          By roasting bones covered with smoking fat

ὄσφυν πυρώσας δυστέκμαρτον εἰς τέχνην  
 ὥδωσα θνητούς, καὶ φλογωπὰ σήματα  
 ἐξωμμάτωσα πρόσθεν ὄντ' ἐπάργεμα.

500        τοιαῦτα μὲν δὴ ταῦτ' ἔνερθε δὲ χθονὸς  
 κεκρυμμέν' ἀνθρώποισιν ὠφελήματα,  
 χαλκόν, σίδηρον, ἄργυρον χρυσόν τε, τίς  
 φήσειεν ἂν πάροιθεν ἐξευρεῖν ἐμοῦ;  
 οὐδείς, σάφ' οἶδα, μὴ μάτην φλύσαι θέλων.

505        βραχεὶ δὲ μύθῳ πάντα συλλήβδην μάθε·  
 πᾶσαι τέχναι βροτοῖσιν ἐκ Προμηθέως.

Χο.    μὴ νυν βροτοὺς μὲν ὠφέλει καιροῦ πέρα,  
 σαυτοῦ δ' ἀκήδει δυστυχοῦντος· ὥς ἐγὼ  
 εὐελπίς εἰμι τῶνδέ σ' ἐκ δεσμῶν ἔτι

510        λυθέντα μηδὲν μείον ἰσχύσειν Διός.

Πρ.    οὐ ταῦτα ταύτῃ Μοῖρᾴ πω τελεσφόρος  
 κρᾶναι πέπρωται, μυρίαίς δὲ πημοναῖς  
 δύαις τε καμφθεῖς ὧδε δεσμὰ φυγγάνω·  
 Τέχνη δ' Ἀνάγκης ἀσθενεστέρα μακρῷ.

515 Χο.    τίς οὖν Ἀνάγκης ἐστὶν οἰακοστρόφος;

Πρ.    Μοῖραι τρίμορφοι μνήμονές τ' Ἑρινύες.

Χο.    τούτων ἄρα Ζεὺς ἐστὶν ἀσθενέστερος;

Πρ.    οὐκουν ἂν ἐκφύγοι γε τὴν πεπρωμένην.

Χο.    τί γὰρ πέπρωται Ζηνὶ πλὴν αἰεὶ κρατεῖν;

520 Πρ.    τοῦτ' οὐκέτ' ἂν πύθοιο· μηδὲ λιπάρει.

Χο.    ἦ πού τι σεμνόν ἐστιν ὃ ξυναμπέχεις.

Πρ.    ἄλλου λόγου μέμνησθε· τόνδε δ' οὐδαμῶς

502 τε I : δὲ cett.

504 φλύσαι West (1998: p. LII) : φλύσαι codd.

505 πάντα plerique : ταῦτα MVN alii

513 καμφθεῖς plerique : κναμφθεῖς M<sup>s</sup> I

520 οὐκέτ' ἂν QK alii : οὐκ ἂν vel οὐκ ἂν οὖν vel οὐκ ἂν μου cett.

And the long chine, I directed mortals towards  
The obscure art of prophecy, and equipped with eyes  
The previously cloudy signs in burning offerings.

500        So much for that. As for metals hidden  
Inside the earth that might benefit humans –  
Bronze, iron, silver, and gold – who  
Could claim to have discovered their use before me?  
No one, I know, not wanting to be called a babbler.  
505        Listen to a succinct summary of my whole account:  
Humans have all technical skills from Prometheus.

CHORUS-LEADER

Well, don't help humans beyond due measure  
While showing no concern for your own misfortune,  
For I am confident that when you are released  
510        From these bonds you'll be no less strong than Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

That is not the way that Fate the Fulfiller  
Ordained these things, but only after being broken  
By myriad pains and miseries am I to escape  
These bonds, for Skill has far less strength than Necessity.

CHORUS-LEADER

515        Who, then, directs the tiller of Necessity?

PROMETHEUS

The three-formed Fates and remembering Erinyes.

CHORUS-LEADER

Can it be that Zeus is weaker than they are?

PROMETHEUS

In fact, not even he could escape what is fated.

CHORUS-LEADER

Yet what is fated but that Zeus hold power forever?

PROMETHEUS

520        You'll not learn any more; don't press the point.

CHORUS-LEADER

It must be some solemn secret you're keeping veiled.

PROMETHEUS

Change the subject. It is not at all the right moment

καιρὸς γεγωνεῖν, ἀλλὰ συγκαλυπτέος  
 ὅσον μάλιστα· τόνδε γὰρ σῶζων ἐγὼ  
 525 δεσμοὺς ἀεικεῖς καὶ δύας ἐκφυγγάνω.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ

μηδὰμ' ὁ πάντα νέμων  
 θεῖτ' ἐμᾶ γνώμα κράτος ἀντίπαλον Ζεὺς,  
 μηδ' ἐλινύσαιμι θεοὺς ὁσίαις  
 530 θοίναις ποτινισομένα  
 βουφόνοις παρ' Ὀκεανοῦ πατρὸς ἄσβεστον πόρον,  
 μηδ' ἀλίτοιμι λόγοις,  
 ἀλλὰ μοι τόδ' ἐμμένει  
 535 καὶ μήποτ' ἐκτακεῖ.

στρ. 1

ἡδύ τι θαρσαλέαις  
 τὸν μακρὸν τείνειν βίον ἐλπίσι, φαναῖς  
 θυμὸν ἀλδαίνουσιν ἐν εὐφροσύναις·  
 540 φρίσσω δὲ σὲ δερκομένα  
 μυρίοις μόχθοις διακναιόμενον < — — — >  
 Ζῆνα γὰρ οὐ τρομέων  
 ἰδίᾳ γνώμα σέβῃ  
 θνατοὺς ἄγαν, Προμηθεῦ.

ἀντ. 1

545 φέρ' ὅπως χάρις ἂ χάρις, ὦ φίλος, εἰ-  
 πέ· ποῦ τις ἀλκά;  
 τίς ἐφαμερίων ἄρηξις; οὐδ' ἐδέρχθης  
 ὀλιγοδρανίαν  
 ἄκιυν ἰσόνειρον, ᾗ τὸ φωτῶν  
 550 ἀλαδὸν γένος ἐμπεποδισμένον; οὐποτε < — — >

στρ. 2

541 metrum claudicat < θεῖον δέμας > J. H. H. Schmidt < δαρὸν χρόνον > Zakas < θνατῶν χάριν > Tommasini

545 ἂ χάρις Headlam: ἄχαρις Ω (et Σ)

550 aut spondeum excidit (< τύφλαι > Weil < πάμπαν > West) aut ἔδνοις 558 eiciendum est (sic Lachmann)

525 To speak about this out loud; it must be kept covered  
 As much as possible, for, by holding on to it,  
 I can escape my disgraceful bondage and misery.

## CHORUS

I pray that Zeus who directs all things Strophe 1  
 Never oppose his power to my will;  
 May I not take a holiday from tending the gods  
 530 With holy feasts and sacrifices  
 By the unceasing stream of Father Ocean.  
 May I not sin in word;  
 Rather, may this pious intent stay by me  
 535 And never trickle away.

It is pleasant to draw out a long life Antistrophe 1  
 In confident hope, nurturing  
 The spirit in bright festivities.  
 540 But I shudder to look upon you  
 Grated by ten thousand sufferings.  
 It was because you did not tremble before Zeus,  
 But showed too much reverence for mortals  
 By your own defiant will, Prometheus.

545 Tell me, friend, how was that favour to them Strophe 2  
 A favour? Where is there any help for you?  
 What aid can ephemeral creatures give? Did you not see  
 The feebleness,  
 Strengthless, dreamlike, in which  
 550 The blind race of humans is shackled? Never

τὰν Διὸς ἁρμονίαν  
 θνατῶν παρεξίασι βουλαί.

ἔμαθον τάδε σὰς προσιδοῦς' ὀλοὰς  
 τύχας, Προμηθεῦ. ἀντ. 2

555 τὸ διαμφίδιον δέ μοι μέλος προσέπτα  
 τόδ' ἐκεῖνό θ' ὅτ' ἀμ-  
 φὶ λουτρὰ καὶ λέχος σὸν ὑμεναίου  
 ἰότατι γάμων, ὅτε τὰν ὁμοπάτριον ἔδνοις  
 ἄγαγες Ἑσιόναν  
 560 πιθὼν δάμαρτα κοινόλεκτρον.

ΙΩ < ἰώ >  
 τίς γῆ; τί γένος; τίνα φῶ λεύσσειν  
 τόνδε χαλινοῖς ἐν πετρίνοισιν  
 χειμαζόμενον; τίνος ἀμπλακίας  
 ποινὰς ὀλέκη; σήμενον ὅποι  
 565 γῆς ἢ μογερὰ πεπλάνημαι.

ᾠ ᾠ, ἐῖ.  
 χρίει τις αὖ με τὰν τάλαιναν οἶστρος –  
 εἶδωλον Ἄργου γηγενοῦς ἀλεῦμαι· φοβοῦμαι  
 τὸν μυριωπὸν εἰσορῶσα βούταν·  
 ὁ δὲ πορεύεται δόλιον ὄμμ' ἔχων,  
 570 ὃν οὐδὲ κατθανόντα γαῖα κεύθει,  
 ἀλλά με τὰν τάλαιναν  
 ἐξ ἐνέρων περῶν κυνηγετεῖ πλανᾷ  
 τε νῆστιν ἀνὰ τὰν παραλίαν ψάμμον.

561 < ἰώ > exclamacionem inseruit West

567 ἀλεῦμαι Wilamowitz ("would be an odd Ionic form", Griffith 1983: 196): ἄλεν' ᾠ δᾶ  
 vel ἄλεν' ᾠ δᾶ vel ἀλευάδα codd.



Will what mortals propose elude  
Zeus's harmonious design.

I understand this from seeing the misfortune  
That has ruined you, Prometheus.

Antistrophe 2

555 It flew into my mind that this lament for you is  
Totally different from that other one,  
The melody I sang to celebrate  
Your nuptial rite and bath  
For your wedding, when you won over my sister  
Hesione with gifts of wooing and  
560 Took her as your wedded wife.

*(Io enters, wearing a mask to show she has become partially  
a cow (cf. 588). She sings disjointedly, at first almost incoherently,  
her dance-steps and gestures no doubt matching her rhythms.)*

IO

Io!

What land? What people? Whom should I say I see,  
This storm-tossed individual, bridled in stone?  
For what crime is your ruin a penalty?  
565 Indicate where on earth I have come, a wanderer in pain.

Ah! Oh!

Some gadfly is again stinging me in my misery –  
I am fleeing from the spectre of Earth's son, Argos. I am afraid  
To look upon the herdsman with ten thousand eyes,  
But he comes with his shiftY gaze –  
570 He's dead, but not even so does earth cover him over –  
He has crossed over from the dead and is hunting me,  
Driving me to wander, miserable, starving,  
Along the sandy seashore.

- ὑπὸ δὲ κηρόπλαστος ὀτοβεῖ δόναξ στρ.  
 575 ἀχέτας ὑπνολέταν νόμον.  
 ἰὼ ἰὼ πόποι,  
 ποῖ μ' ἄγουσ' αἶδε τηλέπλαγκτοι πλάναι;  
 τί ποτέ μ', ὦ Κρόνιε παῖ, τί ποτε ταῖσδ'  
     ἐνέζευξας εὐρὼν ἀμαρτοῦσαν ἐν πημοναῖσιν, ἔξ,  
 580 οἰστρηλάτῳ δὲ δείματι δειλαίαν  
 παράκοπον ὧδε τείρεις;  
 πυρί με φλέξον, ἢ χθονὶ κάλυψον, ἢ  
     ποντίοις δάκεσι δὸς βοράν,  
 μηδέ μοι φθονήσης  
 εὐγμάτων, ἄναξ·  
 585 ἄδην με πολύπλανοι πλάναι  
 γεγυμνάκασιν, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν ὅπη  
 πημονὰς ἀλύξω.  
 κλύεις φθέγγμα τᾶς βούκερω παρθένου;
- Πρ. πῶς δ' οὐ κλύω τῆς γ' οἰστροδινήτου κόρης  
 590 τῆς Ἰναχείας; ἢ Διὸς θάλπει κέαρ  
 ἔρωτι, καὶ νῦν τοὺς ὑπερμήκεις δρόμους  
 Ἥρᾳ στυγητὸς πρὸς βίαν γυμνάζεται.
- Ιω πόθεν ἐμοῦ σὺ πατρὸς ὄνομ' ἀπύεις; ἀντ.  
 εἰπέ μοι τᾷ μογερεῖ τίς ὢν,  
 595 τίς ἄρα μ', ὦ τάλας,  
 τὰν ταλαίπωρον ὧδ' ἔτυμα προσθορεῖς  
 θεόσυτόν τε νόσον ὠνόμασας, ἃ

575 ὑπνολέταν Hartung : ὑπνοδέταν vel ὑπνοδόταν codd.

577 ἄγουσ' < αἶδε > Mazon : ἄγουσι Ω

582 πυρί < με > Elmsley

585 ἄδην West alii (cf. Fraenkel ad *Agam.* 828: "the rough breathing, which the grammarians attest... and etymology demands"): ἄδην vel ἄδδην vel ἄδδην codd.

588 versum choro tribuunt Ω, Ioni reddidit Elmsley φθέγγμα West (1998: p. LII): φθέγμα vel πρόσφθεγμα vel φθέγματα codd.

589 τῆς < γ' > West (1990: 302–3)

- 575 His shrill, wax-bound pipe throbs an accompanying Strophe  
 Tune that ruins sleep.  
 Oh! Oh!  
 Where have I come, wandering far, driven far?  
 Why, O why, Son of Kronos, did you ever yoke me to this  
 anguish?
- 580 Did you find I had done wrong? Ah!  
 Is that why you're making me miserable with the gadfly's sting,  
 Driving me mad with fear?  
 Burn me with fire, cover me in earth, feed me  
 To beasts of the sea:  
 Don't grudge answering  
 My prayers, O Lord!
- 585 My far-flung wanderings  
 Have exercised me enough. I cannot understand  
 How to escape from my miseries.  
 Do you hear the utterance of the cow-horned maiden?

## PROMETHEUS

- 590 Of course, it's the daughter of Inachos I hear,  
 The girl twirled by a gadfly, who enflames Zeus's  
 Heart with love, and now, loathed by Hera,  
 Is exercised by endless, violent racing.

## IO

- 595 How is it that you can speak my father's name? Antistrophe  
 Tell me who am in pain who you are:  
 Who in fact are you, in misery yourself, who speak so accurately  
 To me also in misery? Who name the sickness  
 Sent by god, that wastes me,

- μαραίνει με χρίουσα κέντροισι φοιταλέοισιν, ἔξ;  
 σκιρτημάτων δὲ νήστισιν αἰκείαις  
 600 λαβρόσυτος ἦλθον Ἥρας  
 ἐπικότοισι μήδεσι δαμεῖσα. δυσ-  
 δαιμόνων δέ τινες οἶ, ἔξ,  
 οἶ' ἐγὼ μογοῦσιν.  
 ἀλλὰ μοι τορῶς  
 605 τέκμηρον ὅτι μ' ἐπαμμένει  
 παθεῖν· τί μῆχαρ, ἢ τί φάρμακον νόσου;  
 δεῖξον, εἵπερ οἶσθα·  
 θρόει, φράζε τᾷ δυσπλάνῳ παρθένῳ.

- Πρ. λέξω τορῶς σοι πᾶν ὅπερ χρήζεις μαθεῖν,  
 610 οὐκ ἐμπλέκων αἰνίγματ', ἀλλ' ἀπλῶ λόγῳ,  
 ὥσπερ δίκαιον πρὸς φίλους οἴγειν στόμα.  
 πυρὸς βροτοῖς δοτῆρ' ὀρᾷς Προμηθέα.  
 Ιω ὦ κοινὸν ὠφέλημα θνητοῖσιν φανείς,  
 τλήμον Προμηθεῦ, τοῦ δίκην πάσχεις τάδε;  
 615 Πρ. ἄρμοι πέπαυμαι τοὺς ἐμοὺς θρηνῶν πόνους.  
 Ιω οὔκουν πόροις ἂν τήνδε δωρειὰν ἐμοί;  
 Πρ. λέγ' ἦντιν' αἰτῇ· πᾶν γὰρ ἂν πύθοιό μου.  
 Ιω σήμηνον ὅστις ἐν φάραγγί σ' ὥχμασεν.  
 Πρ. βούλευμα μὲν τὸ Δῖον, Ἥφαίστου δὲ χεῖρ.  
 620 Ιω ποινὰς δὲ ποίων ἀμπλακημάτων τίνεις;  
 Πρ. τοσοῦτον ἄρκῳ σοι σαφηνίσας μόνον.  
 Ιω καὶ πρός γε τούτοις τέρμα τῆς ἐμῆς πλάνης  
 δεῖξον τίς ἔσται τῇ ταλαιπώρῳ χρόνος.

600 < Ἥρας > Monk, Hermann < αἰνῶς > Wieseler

601–2 δέ τινες...μογοῦσιν. / δὲ τίνες...μογοῦσιν; codd. varie

606 μῆχαρ Elmsley: μὴ χρῆ vel μοι χρῆ vel με χρῆ codd.

Stings and goads me, drives me mad? Eee!  
Through Hera's vengeful schemes I have come here,  
600 Made to rush in furious leaps,  
Shamefully starved, overwhelmed.  
Unlucky the fates – Oh! – of any  
That endure the kind of pains that I do.  
But give me some clear sign  
605 Of what is left for me  
To suffer: what remedy, what medicine is there for my illness?  
Show me, if you know;  
Speak, tell the maiden so ill-starred in her wanderings.

PROMETHEUS

I shall tell you clearly everything you want to know,  
610 Not embroidering riddles, but in simple speech,  
Just as is right when one is speaking to friends.  
You're looking at Prometheus, who gave humans fire.

IO

Poor Prometheus, who appeared as mortals' communal  
Benefactor, why are you suffering like this?

PROMETHEUS

615 I only just stopped lamenting my ordeal.

IO

Won't you, then, provide me with this gift?

PROMETHEUS

Name the gift you're seeking; you'll learn everything from me.

IO

Indicate who bolted you in this ravine.

PROMETHEUS

It was Zeus's scheme, but Hephaistos's hand.

IO

620 For what crime are you being penalized?

PROMETHEUS

I've done enough to tell you just this much.

IO

But go further: show what time will mark  
The end of wandering for me who am in misery.

- Πρ. τὸ μὴ μαθεῖν σοι κρεῖσσον ἢ μαθεῖν τάδε.  
 625 Ἰω μήτοί με κρύψῃς τοῦθ' ὅπερ μέλλω παθεῖν.  
 Πρ. ἀλλ' οὐ μεγάριω τοῦδε τοῦ δωρήματος.  
 Ἰω τί δῆτα μέλλεις μὴ οὐ γεγωνίσκειν τὸ πᾶν;  
 Πρ. φθόνος μὲν οὐδεῖς, σὰς δ' ὀκνῶ θρᾶξαι φρένας.  
 Ἰω μή μου προκῆδου μᾶσσον ἢ ὥς ἐμοὶ γλυκύ.  
 630 Πρ. ἐπεὶ προθυμῇ, χρὴ λέγειν· ἄκουε δῆ.  
 Χο. μήπῳ γε, μοῖραν δ' ἡδονῆς κάμοι πόρε·  
 τὴν τῆσδε πρῶτον ἱστορήσωμεν νόσον,  
 αὐτῆς λεγούσης τὰς πολυφθόρους τύχας·  
 τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ἄθλων σοῦ διδαχθήτω πάρα.  
 635 Πρ. σὸν ἔργον, Ἰοῖ, ταῖσδ' ὑπουργήσαι χάριν,  
 ἄλλως τε πάντως καὶ κασιγνήταις πατρός·  
 ὥς τ' ἀποκλαῦσαι κάποδύρασθαι τύχας  
 ἐνταῦθ', ὅπου μέλλοι τις οἴσεσθαι δάκρυ  
 πρὸς τῶν κλυόντων, ἀξίαν τριβὴν ἔχει.  
 640 Ἰω οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ὑμῖν ἀπιστήσαί με χρὴ,  
 σαφεῖ δὲ μύθῳ πᾶν ὅπερ προσχρήζετε  
 πεύσεσθε· καίτοι καὶ λέγουσ' ὀδύρομαι  
 θεόσσυτον χειμῶνα καὶ διαφθορὰν  
 μορφῆς, ὅθεν μοι σχετλία προσέπτατο.  
 645 αἰεὶ γὰρ ὄψεις ἔννυχοι πωλεύμεναι  
 εἰς παρθενῶνας τοὺς ἐμοὺς παρηγόρουν  
 λείοισι μύθοις· “ὦ μέγ' εὐδαιμον κόρη,  
 τί παρθενεύῃ δαρόν, ἐξόν σοι γάμου  
 τυχεῖν μεγίστου; Ζεὺς γὰρ ἡμέρου βέλει  
 650 πρὸς σοῦ τέθαλπται καὶ ξυναίρεσθαι Κύπριν  
 θέλει· σὺ δ', ὦ παῖ, μὴ ἀπολακτίσης λέχος

629 μᾶσσον ἢ ὥς Ze, Zi (pace Griffith: “in unparalleled *synizesis*”): μᾶσσον ὥς plerique

638 μέλλοι M I O<sup>ac</sup>: μέλλει cett.

642 ὀδύρομαι M plerique: αἰσχύνομαι nonnulli



PROMETHEUS

Better you not know it rather than know it.

IO

625 Please don't hide from me what I'm going to suffer.

PROMETHEUS

It's not that I grudge giving this gift.

IO

Then why are you reluctant to tell everything?

PROMETHEUS

I'm willing, but I hesitate to trouble your heart.

IO

Be no more solicitous for me than I would like.

PROMETHEUS

630 Since you are eager, I must speak; listen, then.

CHORUS-LEADER

Not yet – give me, too, a share of enjoyment.

Let us enquire first about her illness,

So she can tell of her devastating misfortunes;

What struggles remain she can then learn from you.

PROMETHEUS

635 It's up to you, Io, to do them this favour,  
Especially as they're your father's sisters.  
To have a thorough cry and lament for one's  
Misfortunes when one is likely to elicit tears  
From listeners, is worth the time involved.

IO

640 I don't know how I can refuse your request,  
So you will learn everything that you wish  
In a clear account, but I lament even to tell  
How the heaven-sent storm and ruination  
Of my bodily form swooped on me in my wretchedness.

645 A constant stream of nighttime visions kept coming  
Inside my maiden's quarters and coaxing me  
With smooth words: "You very lucky girl,  
Why remain a virgin any longer, when you can  
Enter into the greatest marriage? For Zeus  
650 Is inflamed by the shaft of desire for you and wants  
To make love to you. Don't you spurn

- τὸ Ζηνός, ἀλλ' ἔξελθε πρὸς Λέρνης βαθὺν  
 λειμῶνα, ποιμένας βουστάσεις τε πρὸς πατρός,  
 ὡς ἂν τὸ Δῖον ὄμμα λωφήσῃ πόθου.”
- 655 τοιοῖσδε πάσας εὐφρόνας ὀνείρασι  
 ξυνειχόμεν δύστηνος, ἔστε δὴ πατρὶ  
 ἔτλην γεγωνεῖν νυκτίφαντ' ὀνείρατα.  
 ὁ δ' εἷς τε Πυθὼ καπὶ Δωδώνης πυκνοῦς  
 θεοπρόπους ἵαλλεν, ὡς μάθοι τί χρῆ
- 660 δρῶντ' ἢ λέγοντα δαίμοσιν πράσσειν φίλα.  
 ἦκον δ' ἀπαγγέλλοντες αἰολοστόμους  
 χρησμούς, ἀσήμους δυσκρίτως τ' εἰρημένους·  
 τέλος δ' ἐναργῆς βάξις ἦλθεν Ἰνάχῳ  
 σαφῶς ἐπισκίπτουσα καὶ μυθουμένη
- 665 ἔξω δόμων τε καὶ πάτρας ὠθεῖν ἐμὲ  
 ἄφετον ἀλᾶσθαι γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις ὄροις·  
 κεῖ μὴ θέλοι, πυρωπὸν ἐκ Διὸς μολεῖν  
 κεραυνόν, ὃς πᾶν ἐξαῖστώσοι γένος.  
 τοιοῖσδε πεισθεῖς Λοξίου μαντεύμασιν
- 670 ἐξήλασέν με κατέκλησε δωμάτων,  
 ἄκουσαν ἄκων, ἀλλ' ἐπηνάγκαζέ νιν  
 Διὸς χαλινὸς πρὸς βίαν πράσσειν τάδε.  
 εὐθύς δὲ μορφή καὶ φρένες διάστροφοι  
 ἦσαν, κεραστὶς δ', ὡς ὁρᾷτ', ὄξυστόμῳ
- 675 μύωπι χρισθεῖς ἐμμανεῖ σκιρτήματι  
 ἦσσαν πρὸς εὐποτόν τε Κερχναίας ῥέος  
 Λέρνης τε κρήνην· βουκόλος δὲ γηγενῆς  
 ἄκρατος ὀργὴν Ἄργος ὠμάρτει, πυκνοῖς  
 ὅσοις δεδορκώς, τοὺς ἐμοὺς κατὰ στίβους.

657 νυκτίφαντ' M I R<sup>ss</sup> (West cit. Aesch., *Agam.* 82 et 420) : νυκτίφοιτ' ceteri

661 ἀπαγγέλλοντες Y F<sup>yp</sup> nonnulli alii : ἀναγγέλλοντες fere cett.

668 ἐξαῖστώσοι Blomfield : ἐξαῖστώσει Ω

674 κεραστὶς Herodian I 104.15 : κεράστις fere Ω

677 τε κρήνην Canter (sed vid. V. Citti et R. Dawe, *Lexis* 22 [2004] 252): ἄκρην τε fere Ω

Zeus's bed, but go out to the deep meadow  
Of Lerna, to your father's flocks and pens,  
So that Zeus's eye may be relieved of its longing."  
655 Every night dreams of this type held me,  
Wretched, in their grip until finally I had  
The courage to tell father of the dream visions.  
He for his part sent numerous embassies  
To Delphi and Dodona, to learn what he had to do  
660 Or say that would find favour with the gods.  
They returned with reports of convoluted  
Oracles, nonsensical or obscurely worded.  
Finally, a clear utterance came to Inachos  
That spoke explicitly and commanded him  
665 To thrust me right out of my home and country,  
And let me loose to roam to the ends of the earth;  
Should he refuse, a fiery bolt would come  
From Zeus that would annihilate the whole family.  
It was Apolline oracles like this that persuaded him  
670 To drive me away and lock me out of the house,  
An outcome neither of us wanted, but Zeus's bit  
And bridle compelled him by force to act this way.  
Immediately my shape and wits became distorted:  
I grew horns, as you can see, and a sharp  
675 Gadfly's sting made me leap and rush about  
Madly in the direction of Kerchne's fair waters  
And the spring of Lerna. Earth's son Argos the herdsman,  
With wrath unalloyed, hounded my every step,  
Staring at me with his abundant eyes.

- 680 ἀπροσδοκῆτως δ' αἰφνίδιος αὐτὸν μόρος  
τοῦ ζῆν ἀπεστέρησεν, οἰστροπλήξ δ' ἐγὼ  
μάστιγι θείᾳ γῆν πρὸ γῆς ἐλαύνομαι.  
κλύεις τὰ πραχθέντ'· εἰ δ' ἔχεις εἰπεῖν ὅτι  
λοιπὸν πόνων, σήμαινε. μηδέ μ' οἰκτίσας  
685 ζύνθαλπε μύθοις ψευδέσιν· νόσημα γὰρ  
αἴσχιστον εἶναί φημι συνθέτους λόγους.

- Χο. ἕα ἕα, ἄπεχε, φεῦ·  
οὔποθ' ὦδ' οὔποτ' ἠΰχουν ξένους  
μολεῖσθαι λόγους ἐς ἀκοὰν ἐμάν,  
690 οὐδ' ὦδε δυσθέατα καὶ δύσοιστα  
πήματα λύματ' ἂν ἀμφήκει  
κέντρῳ ψύχειν μοι ψυχάν.  
ἰὼ μοῖρα μοῖρα·  
695 πέφρικ' εἰσιδοῦσα πρᾶξιν Ἰοῦς.

- Πρ. πρῶ γε στενάξεις καὶ φόβου πλέα τις εἶ·  
ἐπίσχες ἔστ' ἂν καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ προσμάθῃς.  
Χο. λέγ', ἐκδίδασκε· τοῖς νοσοῦσί τοι γλυκὺ  
τὸ λοιπὸν ἄλγος προυξεπίστασθαι τορῶς.  
700 Πρ. τὴν πρὶν γε χρεῖαν ἠνύσασθ' ἐμοῦ πάρα  
κούφως· μαθεῖν γὰρ τῆσδε πρῶτ' ἐχρήζετε  
τὸν ἀμφ' ἐαυτῆς ἄθλον ἐξηγουμένης·  
τὰ λοιπὰ νῦν ἀκούσαθ', οἷα χρὴ πάθη  
τλῆναι πρὸς Ἥρας τήνδε τὴν νεάνίδα.  
705 σύ τ', Ἰνάχειον σπέρμα, τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους  
θυμῷ βάλ', ὥς ἂν τέρματ' ἐκμάθῃς ὁδοῦ.

680 ἀπροσδοκῆτως Griffith : -ητος Ω αἰφνίδιος αὐτὸν Porson: αὐτὸν αἰφνίδιος Ω

688 οὔποθ' ὦδ' Wecklein : οὔποτ' Ω

691–3 “lectio incertissima” Page δέματ' ἀμφήκει κέντρῳ ψύχειν ψυχάν ἐμάν M δέματ'  
del. Hermann ἂν suppl. Sikes et Willson μοι ψυχάν pro ψυχάν ἐμάν Page

694 ἰὼ Weil : ἰὼ ἰὼ Ω

700 ἠνύσασθ' West (1998: p. XXX): ἠνύσασθ' Ω

680 But a swift and unexpected death deprived him  
Of life, and I am driven by the gadfly's sting  
And the gods' whip to wander over all the earth.  
You've heard the things that happened, but if you can tell  
What's left to suffer, indicate it. Don't out of pity  
685 Try to soothe me with lying words: the most shameful  
Sickness is, I say, to fabricate stories.

## CHORUS-LEADER

Ah! Away! Oh!  
Never, never did I think that such strange reports  
Would come into the range of my hearing,  
690 Nor that such ghastly and intolerable,  
Disgraceful sufferings  
Would chill my heart so sharply.  
O Fate, Fate!  
I shudder when I see  
695 What has happened to Io.

## PROMETHEUS

*(addressing the Chorus-leader)*

You're someone who laments too soon and is full of fear;  
Wait until you learn as well what remains.

## CHORUS-LEADER

Speak, instruct me; for the sick take comfort, in fact,  
In knowing fully and clearly what suffering remains.

## PROMETHEUS

700 The first thing that you asked for you got from me  
Quite easily, for you wanted first to hear her  
Explaining in full about her own ordeal.  
Now, listen to the rest, what kind of sufferings  
This young girl must endure at Hera's hands.

*(He addresses Io.)*

705 And you, Inachos's child, pay close attention  
To my words, in order to learn the end of your journey.



- πρῶτον μὲν ἐνθὲνδ' ἡλίου πρὸς ἀντολὰς  
 στρέψασα σαυτὴν στεῖχ' ἀνηρότους γύας·  
 Σκύθας δ' ἀφίξη νομάδας, οἱ πλεκτὰς στέγας  
 710 πεδάρσιοι ναίουσ' ἐπ' εὐκύκλοις ὄχοις,  
 ἐκηβόλοις τόξοισιν ἐξηρτυμένοι·  
 οἷς μὴ πελάζειν, ἀλλ' ἀλιστόνοις πόδας  
 κρίμπτουσα ῥαχίαισιν ἐκπερᾶν χθόνα.  
 λαιᾶς δὲ χειρὸς οἱ σιδηροτέκτονες  
 715 οἰκοῦσι Χάλυβες, οὓς φυλάξασθαί σε χρή,  
 ἀνήμεροι γὰρ οὐδὲ πρόσπλατοι ξένοις.  
 ἥξεις δ' Ὑβριστὴν ποταμὸν οὐ ψευδώνυμον·  
 ὃν μὴ περάσης, οὐ γὰρ εὐβάτος περᾶν,  
 πρὶν ἂν πρὸς αὐτὸν Καύκασον μόλης, ὀρῶν  
 720 ὕψιστον, ἔνθα ποταμὸς ἐκφυσᾷ μένος  
 κροτάφων ἀπ' αὐτῶν· ἀστρογείτονας δὲ χρή  
 κορυφὰς ὑπερβαλοῦσαν ἐς μεσημβρινὴν  
 βῆναι κέλευθον, ἔνθ' Ἀμαζόνων στρατὸν  
 ἥξεις στυγάνορ', αἷ Θεμίσκυράν ποτε  
 725 κατοικιοῦσιν ἀμφὶ Θερμώδονθ', ἵνα  
 τραχεῖα πόντου Σαλμυδησσία γνάθος,  
 ἐχθρόξενος ναύτησι, μητρυιὰ νεῶν.  
 αὐταῖς σ' ὀδηγήσουσι καὶ μάλ' ἄσμεναι·  
 ἰσθμὸν δ' ἐπ' αὐταῖς στενοπόροις λίμνης πύλαις  
 730 Κιμμερικὸν ἥξεις, ὃν θρασυσπλάγχχνως σε χρή  
 λιποῦσαν αὐλῶν' ἐκπερᾶν Μαιωτικόν·  
 ἔσται δὲ θνητοῖς εἰσαεὶ λόγος μέγας  
 τῆς σῆς πορείας, Βόσπορος δ' ἐπώνυμος  
 κεκλήσεται. λιποῦσα δ' Εὐρώπης πέδον

713 ῥαχίαισιν West : ῥαχίαισιν Ω

716 πρόσπλατοι I : -πλαστοι cett.

717–728 post 791 traî. Reisig (cf. West 1990: 304–6)

728 ἄσμεναι Herwerden: ἀσμένως Ω (West ibid. 305 n.12)



From here turn first to where the sun  
Rises and proceed through untilled fields;  
You will come to the nomadic Skythoi, who dwell  
710 In wicker huts raised off the ground on wagons;  
They are armed with long-range bows and arrows.  
Do not go near them, but pass through the land  
By staying near the rocky, sounding seashore.  
On your left hand dwell the iron-working  
715 Khalybes; you must be on your guard against them,  
For they are savages and give no welcome to strangers.  
You will come to Insolent River, and well-named it is;  
Do not cross it, for it is not easy to cross,  
Until you come to Kaukasos itself, the highest  
720 Of mountains, where the river spews out its might  
From the very mountain peaks. You must get over  
These crests that neighbour the stars and travel southwards,  
Where you will come to a female horde of Amazons  
Who hate men (at some future time they will settle  
725 Themiskyra on the Thermodon River, where  
Salmydessos is, the sea's rough jaw,  
Inhospitable to sailors, stepmother of ships).  
These women will lead you, and very gladly:  
You will come to the Kimmerian Isthmus just by  
730 The narrow entrance to a lake, which you must  
Bravely leave and cross the Maiotic Strait;  
Mortals will ever after tell a mighty  
Story of your crossing, and from it the Bosporos  
Will receive its name. Then you will leave Europe

- 735 ἥπειρον ἥξεις Ἀσιάδ'. ἄρ' ὑμῖν δοκεῖ  
 ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος εἰς τὰ πάνθ' ὁμῶς  
 βίαιος εἶναι; τῇδε γὰρ θνητῇ θεὸς  
 χρήζων μιγῆναι τάσδ' ἐπέρρεψεν πλάνας.  
 πικροῦ δ' ἔκυρσας, ὦ κόρη, τῶν σὼν γάμων
- 740 μνηστήρος· οὖς γὰρ νῦν ἀκήκοας λόγους  
 εἶναι δόκει σοὶ μηδέπω 'ν προοιμίοις.
- Ιω ἰὼ μοί μοι, ἐέ.
- Πρ. σὺ δ' αὖ κέκραγας κἀναμυχθίζῃ· τί που  
 δράσεις ὅταν τὰ λοιπὰ πυνθάνῃ κακά;
- 745 Χο. ἦ γάρ τι λοιπὸν τῇδε πημάτων ἐρεῖς;  
 Πρ. δυσχείμερόν γε πέλαγος ἀτηρᾶς δύης.
- Ιω τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ ζῆν κέρδος, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν τάχει  
 ἔρριψ' ἐμαυτὴν τῆσδ' ἀπὸ στύφλου πέτρας,  
 ὅπως πέδοι σκήψασα τῶν πάντων πόνων
- 750 ἀπηλλάγην; κρεῖσσον γὰρ εἰσάπαξ θανεῖν  
 ἢ τὰς ἀπάσας ἡμέρας πάσχειν κακῶς.
- Πρ. ἦ δυσπετῶς ἂν τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἄθλους φέροις,  
 ὅτῳ θανεῖν μέν ἐστιν οὐ πεπρωμένον·  
 αὕτη γὰρ ἦν ἂν πημάτων ἀπαλλαγὴ·
- 755 νῦν δ' οὐδέν ἐστι τέρμα μοι προκείμενον  
 μόχθων πρὶν ἂν Ζεὺς ἐκπέσῃ τυραννίδος.
- Ιω ἦ γάρ ποτ' ἔστιν ἐκπεσεῖν ἀρχῆς Δία;
- Πρ. ἦδοί' ἂν, οἶμαι, τήνδ' ἰδοῦσα συμφοράν.
- Ιω πῶς δ' οὐκ ἂν, ἥτις ἐκ Διὸς πάσχω κακῶς;

738 ἐπέρρεψε “marg. cod. nesciocuius ap. Morell [London, 1767]”, West : ἐπέρριψε vel ἐπέτρεψε vel ἐπέξευξε codd.

741 μηδέπω 'ν Turnebus : μηδ' ἐπὼν Ω

744–5 λοιπὰ ... λοιπὸν suspectum; fort. μᾶσσον pro secundo substituendum est (vid. West 1990: 307)

735 And come to the Asian continent.

*(He addresses the chorus.)*

Surely you agree  
That the tyrant of the gods is in all things equally  
A figure of violence; because he wished to bed her  
He weighed out these wanderings on this mortal woman.

*(To Io.)*

740 Young woman, it was a bitter suitor you found  
For your marriage, for you must suppose that the account  
You've just heard is only the beginning.

IO

*(utters a high-pitched, moaning sound)*

PROMETHEUS

You're howling and snorting again. What in the world  
Will you do when you learn the terrors that remain?

CHORUS-LEADER

745 You mean, you have some more sufferings to tell her?

PROMETHEUS

Yes, a stormy sea of excruciating pain.

IO

What profit for me, then, in living? Why don't I  
Quickly hurl myself from this jagged cliff,  
So that by hitting the ground I can get rid  
750 Of all my troubles? For it's better to die once  
Than spend all one's days suffering miserably.

PROMETHEUS

Certainly you'd find it hard to bear my ordeal  
Since death is not in my destiny; that would, indeed,  
Be a way for me to get rid of my miseries.

755 But as things are, no fixed term is set  
For my agonies until Zeus falls from tyranny.

IO

Can Zeus ever be toppled from his rule?

PROMETHEUS

You'd be delighted, I think, to see this happen.

IO

Of course, since I'm suffering so foully at Zeus's hands.

- 760 Πρ. ὥς τοίνυν ὄντων τῶνδε γαθεῖν σοι πάρα.  
 Ιω πρὸς τοῦ τύραννα σκῆπτρα συληθήσεται;  
 Πρ. πρὸς αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ κενοφρόνων βουλευμάτων.  
 Ιω ποίω τρόπῳ; σήμενον, εἰ μή τις βλάβη.  
 Πρ. γαμεῖ γάμον τοιοῦτον, ᾧ ποτ' ἀσχαλεῖ.  
 765 Ιω θέορτον, ἢ βρότειον; εἰ ῥητόν, φράσον.  
 Πρ. τί δ' ὄντιν'; οὐ γὰρ ῥητὸν αὐδᾶσθαι τόδε.  
 Ιω ἢ πρὸς δάμαρτος ἐξανίσταται θρόνων;  
 Πρ. ἢ τέξεταί γε παῖδα φέρτερον πατρός.  
 Ιω οὐδ' ἔστιν αὐτῷ τῆσδ' ἀποστροφή τύχης;  
 770 Πρ. οὐ δῆτα, πλὴν ἔγωγ' ἂν ἐκ δεσμῶν λυθείς.  
 Ιω τίς οὖν ὁ λύσων ἐστὶν ἄκοντος Διός;  
 Πρ. τῶν σῶν τιν' αὐτὸν ἐκγόνων εἶναι χρεών.  
 Ιω πῶς εἶπας; ἢ ἔμδς παῖς σ' ἀπαλλάξει κακῶν;  
 Πρ. τρίτος γε γένναν πρὸς δέκ' ἄλλαισιν γοναῖς.  
 775 Ιω ἥδ' οὐκέτ' εὐξύμβλητος ἢ χρησμοδία.  
 Πρ. καὶ μηδὲ σαυτῆς γ' ἐκμαθεῖν ζήτει πόνους.  
 Ιω μή μοι προτείνων κέρδος εἶτ' ἀποστέρει.  
 Πρ. δυοῖν λόγοιν σε θατέρῳ δωρήσομαι.  
 Ιω ποίοιν; πρόδειξον αἵρεσίν τ' ἐμοὶ δίδου.  
 780 Πρ. δίδωμ'· ἐλοῦ γάρ· ἢ πόνων τὰ λοιπά σοι

764 ἀσχαλεῖ L. Dindorf : ἀσχαλᾷ Ω

776 σαυτῆς γ' Hermann : σαυτῆς τ' vel σαυτῆς codd.

PROMETHEUS

760 You can rejoice, then, since this is really the case.

IO

By whom will he be stripped of his tyrant's sceptre?

PROMETHEUS

He'll do it himself, through his empty-headed schemes.

IO

How? Indicate it, if no harm is involved.

PROMETHEUS

He'll try his hand at a marriage he'll one day rue.

IO

765 With a god or a human? Tell it if you can.

PROMETHEUS

Why ask what kind? It is forbidden to speak of this.

IO

Is it his wife, then, who'll dislodge him from his throne?

PROMETHEUS

Yes, for she'll bear a son stronger than his father.

IO

Isn't there a way for him to avert this disaster?

PROMETHEUS

770 None at all, unless I am released from my chains.

IO

But who will release you against Zeus's will?

PROMETHEUS

It must be someone of your line of descendants.

IO

What are you saying? My son will free you from pain?

PROMETHEUS

Yes, the third to be born after ten others.

IO

775 This prophecy is no longer comprehensible.

PROMETHEUS

And don't seek to learn about your troubles, either.

IO

Don't hold out a prize to me, then remove it.

PROMETHEUS

I'll make you a gift of one of two accounts.

IO

Which ones? Present the two and let me choose.

PROMETHEUS

780 All right, choose: I'll tell you clearly either

φράσω σαφηνῶς, ἢ τὸν ἐκλύσονται ἔμέ.

Χο. τούτων σὺ τὴν μὲν τῇδε, τὴν δ' ἔμοι χάριν  
θέσθαι θέλησον, μηδ' ἀτιμάσης λόγου·  
καὶ τῇδε μὲν γέγωνε τὴν λοιπὴν πλάνην,  
785 ἔμοι δὲ τὸν λύσοντα· τοῦτο γὰρ ποθῶ.

Πρ. ἐπεὶ προθυμεῖσθ', οὐκ ἐναντιώσομαι  
τὸ μὴ οὐ γεγωνεῖν πᾶν ὅσον προσχρήζετε.  
σοὶ πρῶτον, Ἰοῖ, πολύδονον πλάνην φράσω,  
ἣν ἐγγράφου σὺ μνήμοσιν δέλτοις φρενῶν.

790 ὅταν περάσης ῥεῖθρον ἡπείρων ὄρον,  
πρὸς ἀντολὰς φλογῶπας ἡλίου στίβει  
πόντον παρὰ ζάφλοισβον, ἔστ' ἂν ἐξίκη  
τὰ Γοργόνεια πεδία Κισθίνης, ἵνα  
αἱ Φορκίδες ναίουσι, δηναῖαι κόραι  
795 τρεῖς κυκνόμορφοι, κοινὸν ὅμμ' ἐκτημέναι,  
μονόδοντες, ἃς οὔθ' ἥλιος προσδέρκεται  
ἀκτῖσιν οὔθ' ἡ νύκτερος μήνη ποτέ·  
πέλας δ' ἀδελφαὶ τῶνδε τρεῖς κατάπτεροι,  
δρακοντόμαλλοι Γοργόνες βροτοστρυγεῖς,  
800 ἃς θνητὸς οὐδεὶς εἰσιδὼν ἔξει πνοάς.

τοιοῦτο μὲν σοι τοῦτο φρούριον λέγω,  
ἄλλην δ' ἄκουσον δυσχερῇ θεωρίαν·  
ὀξυστόμους γὰρ Ζηνὸς ἀκραγεῖς κύνας  
γρῦπας φύλαξαι, τόν τε μουνῶπα στρατόν  
805 Ἄριμασπὸν ἵποβάμον', οἱ χρυσόρρυτον  
οἰκοῦσιν ἀμφὶ νᾶμα Πλούτωνος πόρου·  
τούτοις σὺ μὴ πέλαζε. τήλουρον δὲ γῆν  
ἥξεις, κελαινὸν φῶλον, οἱ πρὸς ἡλίου

783 λόγου Elmsley : λόγους Ω

791 ἡλίου στίβει Hartung : ἡλιοστιβεῖς fere Ω post hunc versum lacunam statuerunt  
Heath, Brunck, Bolton, alii

792 πόντον M alii ; πόντου cett. παρὰ ζάφλοισβον West : περῶσα φλοῖσβον Ω

793 τὰ Γοργόνεια West (1990: 308–9, ubi confert P.V. 810–11, ἕως ἂν ἐξίκη καταβασμόν)  
: πρὸς Γοργ. Ω

807 τήλουρον West (vid. supr. ad v. 1)



What remains of your struggles, or the one who will free me.

*(The Chorus-leader intervenes.)*

CHORUS-LEADER

Please relate one of them as a favour to her,  
And the other for me; don't stint the telling.  
Tell both the rest of her wanderings to her,  
785 And your rescuer to me, for I'm longing to hear it.

PROMETHEUS

Since you're so eager, I will not refuse to tell  
Everything that you still desire to hear.  
To you first, Io, I'll recount your tortuous wandering,  
Which you must inscribe in the record-book of memory.  
790 When you have crossed the strait that is the continents'  
Boundary, go east towards blazing sunrise  
Along the mightily roaring sea until you arrive  
At Kisthene, territory of Gorgons, where  
The daughters of Phorkys dwell, three ancient  
795 Maidens, shaped like swans, with a common eye  
And one tooth; these women are never in sight  
Of the sun's rays, nor of the moon at night.  
And near them are their three winged sisters,  
The human-loathing Gorgons with snaky locks,  
800 Whom no mortal can gaze on and still have life;  
Against such a threat as this I tell you to be watchful.  
Now hear a further disconcerting sight:  
Be on guard against the sharp-beaked, noiseless hounds  
Of Zeus, the griffins, and the troop of one-eyed,  
805 Mounted Arimaspoi, who live near  
The gold-flowing stream of Wealthy River;  
Do not approach them. You will come to a remote  
Country and a black race who dwell

- ναίουσι πηγαῖς, ἔνθα ποταμὸς Αἰθίοψ.  
 810 τούτου παρ' ὄχθας ἔρφ', ἕως ἂν ἐξίκη  
 καταβασμόν, ἔνθα Βυβλίνων ὁρῶν ἅπο  
 ἴησι σεπτὸν Νεῖλος εὖποτον ῥέος.  
 οὗτός σ' ὁδώσει τὴν τρίγωνον ἐς χθόνα  
 Νειλῶτιν· οὗ δὴ τὴν μακρὰν ἀποικίαν,  
 815 Ἰοῖ, πέπρωται σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις κτίσαι.  
 τῶνδ' εἴ τί σοι ψελλόν τε καὶ δυσεύρετον,  
 ἐπανδίπλαζε, καὶ σαφῶς ἐκμάνθανε·  
 σχολὴ δὲ πλείων ἢ θέλω πάρεστί μοι.  
 Χο. εἰ μὲν τι τῇδε λοιπὸν ἢ παρειμένον  
 820 ἔχεις γεγωνεῖν τῆς πολυφθόρου πλάνης,  
 λέγ'· εἰ δὲ πάντ' εἴρηκας, ἡμῖν αὖ χάριν  
 δὸς ἦν πρὶν ἡτούμεσθα· μέμνησαι δέ που.  
 Πρ. τὸ πᾶν πορείας ἤδε τέρμ' ἀκήκοεν·  
 ὅπως δ' ἂν εἰδῇ μὴ μάτην κλυοῦσά μου,  
 825 ἃ πρὶν μολεῖν δεῦρ' ἐκμεμόχθηκεν φράσω,  
 τεκμήριον τοῦτ' αὐτὸ δοὺς μύθων ἐμῶν.  
 ὄχλον μὲν οὖν τὸν πλεῖστον ἐκλείψω λόγων,  
 πρὸς αὐτὸ δ' εἵμι τέρμα σῶν πλανημάτων.  
 ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθες πρὸς Μολοσσὰ γάπεδα  
 830 τὴν αἰπύνωτόν τ' ἀμφὶ Δωδώνην, ἵνα  
 μαντεῖα θᾶκός τ' ἐστί Θεσπρωτοῦ Διὸς  
 τέρας τ' ἄπιστον, αἱ προσήγοροι δρῦες,  
 ὕψ' ὧν σὺ λαμπρῶς κοῦδὲν αἰνικτηρίως  
 προσηγορεύθης ἢ Διὸς κλεινὴ δάμαρ  
 835 μέλλουσ' ἔσεσθαι – τῶνδε προσσαίνει σέ τι; –  
 ἐντεῦθεν οἰστρήσασα τὴν παρακτίαν

811 Βυβλίνων plerique : Βιβλίνων M alii

817 ἐπανδίπλαζε Dindorf : ἐπαναδίπλαζε Ω

822 ἦν πρὶν Hermann : ἦντιν' Ω ἡτούμεσθα Dindorf : αἰτούμεσθα Ω

829 γάπεδα Porson : δάπεδα Ω

831 θᾶκος Brunck : θῶκος Ω

810 By the sun's springs, where Burnt-face River runs.  
 Proceed along its banks until you come  
 To a cataract where the Nile sends forth  
 His sacred stream from the Papyrus Mountains.  
 This will take you to a triangular tract, the Delta,  
 Where finally, Io, you and your children  
 815 Are destined to found a distant settlement.

If any of this is obscure or unintelligible,  
 Keep asking, make sure you understand clearly.  
 More leisure is available to me than I would wish.

*(Io does not respond.)*

CHORUS-LEADER

820 If there's anything more, anything left out,  
 That you can tell her about her disastrous wandering,  
 Speak. But if you've told everything, then grant us  
 The favour we asked before – you remember?

PROMETHEUS

825 She has heard in full the end of her journey, but for her  
 To know she hasn't been hearing nonsense from me,  
 I'll tell what she struggled through before reaching here –  
 Thus making this itself a proof of my words.

*(He addresses Io.)*

I shall leave out the largest extent of narrative  
 And will proceed to the very end of your wanderings.  
 When you came to the territory of the Molossoi  
 830 And the district around steep Dodona, where  
 There is the oracular shrine of Thesprotian Zeus  
 And an incredible marvel, the Talking Oaks,  
 Who addressed you quite clearly and not in riddles  
 As the girl who was to become the famous wife  
 835 Of Zeus – does any of this resonate with you? –  
 Driven from there by the gadfly you rushed northwards

- κέλευθον ἦξας πρὸς μέγαν κόλπον Ῥέας,  
 ἄφ' οὗ παλιμπλάγκτοισι χειμάζῃ δρόμοις·  
 χρόνον δὲ τὸν μέλλοντα πόντιος μυχός,  
 840 σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', Ἴόνιος κεκλήσεται,  
 τῆς σῆς πορείας μνήμα τοῖς πᾶσιν βροτοῖς.  
 σημείά σοι τάδ' ἐστὶ τῆς ἐμῆς φρενός,  
 ὣς δέρκεται πλέον τι τοῦ πεφασμένου.  
 τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ὑμῖν τῇδέ τ' εἰς κοινὸν φράσω,  
 845 εἰς ταὐτὸν ἐλθὼν τῶν πάλαι λόγων ἵχνος.  
 ἔστιν πόλις Κάνωβος, ἐσχάτη χθονός,  
 Νείλου πρὸς αὐτῷ στόματι καὶ προσχώματι·  
 ἐνταῦθα δὴ σε Ζεὺς τίθησιν ἔμφορνα  
 ἐπαφῶν ἀταρβεῖ χειρὶ καὶ θιγῶν μόνον·  
 850 ἐπώνυμον δὲ τῶν Διὸς γεννημάτων  
 τέξεις κελαινὸν Ἑπαφον, ὃς καρπώσεται  
 ὄσσην πλατύρρους Νεῖλος ἀρδεύει χθόνα.  
 πέμπτη δ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ γέννα πεντηκοντάπαις  
 πάλιν πρὸς Ἄργος οὐχ ἑκοῦσ' ἐλεύσεται  
 855 θηλύσπορος, φεύγουσα συγγενῇ γάμον  
 ἀνεψιῶν· οἱ δ' ἐπτοημένοι φρένας,  
 κίρκοι πελειῶν οὐ μακρὰν λελειμμένοι,  
 ἥξουσι θηρεύοντες οὐ θηρασίμους  
 γάμους, φθόνον δὲ σωμάτων ἔξει θεός·  
 860 Πελασγία δὲ δέξεται .....  
 ..... θηλυκτόνω  
 ἄρει δαμέντων νυκτιφρουρήτῳ θράσει·  
 γυνὴ γὰρ ἄνδρ' ἕκαστον αἰῶνος στερεῖ,  
 δίθηκτον ἐν σφαγῇσι βάψασα ξίφος.

848 pro τίθησιν ἔμφορνα Ω fort. τίθησ' ἐγκύμονα (Elmsley)

858 θηρεύοντες H F<sup>yp</sup> : θηρεύσοντες vel θηρεύσαντες cett.

860–1 lacunam statuit Hermann

863 σφαγῇσι West: σφαγαῖσι Ω

840 By the coastal route to the great Gulf of Rhea,  
From which storms thrust you back repeatedly,  
But in future time this corner of the sea  
Will most assuredly be called "Ionian",  
A memorial of your journey for all humankind.  
Here, then, are your indications of my intellect  
To show that it sees beyond mere appearances.

*(Prometheus now addresses the Chorus.)*

845 The rest of what I shall say is for both you and her;  
I return to the path of my narrative where I left off.  
There is a city, Kanobos, at land's end,  
Right at the Nile's mouth and silting-place.  
There, finally, Zeus heals your mind,  
By caressing you, just touching, with calming hand.  
850 As namesake of this engendering by Zeus  
You'll give birth to black Epaphos, Caress, who will farm  
As much land as wide-flowing Nile waters.  
Fifth in descent from him a brood of fifty  
Will go back again to Argos, not voluntarily,  
855 Fifty females fleeing marriage with kin,  
Their cousins, who, in a flutter of excitement,  
Like hawks chasing close behind doves,  
Will come hunting marriages not to be hunted,  
But God will grudge the men their cousins' bodies.  
860 Pelasgian Argos will receive them...

... (The men will be) done to death in combat  
With women, who have watched boldly by night.  
For each wife will part her husband from life,  
Dipping her sharpened dagger in his blood.



- 865 τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἔλθοι Κύπρις.  
 μίαν δὲ παίδων ἵμερος θέλξει τὸ μὴ  
 κτεῖναι ξύνενον, ἀλλ' ἀπαμβλυνθήσεται  
 γνώμην· δυοῖν δὲ θάτερον βουλήσεται,  
 κλύειν ἀναλκίς μᾶλλον ἢ μαιφόνος.  
 αὕτη κατ' Ἄργος βασιλικὸν τέξει γένος.  
 870 μακροῦ λόγου δεῖ ταῦτ' ἐπεξελθεῖν τορῶς·  
 σπορᾶς γε μὴν ἐκ τῆσδε φύσεται θρασύς,  
 τόξοισι κλεινός, ὃς πόνων ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐμὲ  
 λύσει· τοιόνδε χρησμὸν ἢ παλαιγενῆς  
 μήτηρ ἐμοὶ διήλθε, Τιτανὶς Θέμις·  
 875 ὅπως δὲ χῶπη, ταῦτα δεῖ μακροῦ λόγου  
 εἰπεῖν, σύ τ' οὐδὲν ἐκμαθοῦσα κερδανεῖς.  
 Ἰω ἐλελεῦ ἐλελεῦ·  
 ὑπὸ μ' αὖ σφάκελος καὶ φρενοπλήγες  
 μανίαι θάλπους, οἷστρου δ' ἄρδις  
 880 χρίει ζάπυρος·  
 κραδία δὲ φόβῳ φρένα λακτίζει,  
 τροχοδινεῖται δ' ὄμμαθ' ἐλίγδην,  
 ἔξω δὲ δρόμου φέρομαι λύσσης  
 πνεύματι μάργῳ γλώσσης ἀκρατῆς,  
 885 θολεροὶ δὲ λόγοι παίους· εἰκῇ  
 στυγνῆς πρὸς κύμασιν ἄτης.  
 Χο. ἦ σοφὸς, ἦ σοφὸς ἦν στρ.  
 ὃς πρῶτος ἐν γνώμῃ τόδ' ἐβάστασε καὶ  
 γλώσσῃ διεμυθολόγησεν,  
 890 ὥς τὸ κηδεῦσαι καθ' ἑαυτὸν ἀριστεύει μακρῶ,

878 φρενοπλήγες Cobet : -πληγεῖς vel -βλαβεῖς codd.

880 ζάπυρος Askew (cf. v. 1084) ἄπυρος vel μ' ἄπυρος codd.

881 κραδία Tri K : καρδία ceteri

885 παίους· plerique : πταίους· M



865 (I would wish *that* kind of marriage on my enemies!)  
 Desire will cast a spell on one of the girls  
 To prevent her murdering her husband: her intention  
 Will be blunted; of the alternatives she will prefer  
 To be called “weakling” rather than “murderess”.  
 She will give birth to a kingly race in Argos –  
 870 It would take a long tale to go through it clearly –  
 But from this implanting a bold man will grow,  
 A famous archer, one who will release me  
 From this anguish: such an oracle my ancient  
 Mother, the Titan Themis, recounted to me.  
 875 To tell exactly how would take a long  
 Tale, and you will not profit from learning.

*(Io shrieks.)*

IO

Eleleu! Eleleu!  
 Spasms and madness strike me,  
 Inflamm me! The gadfly’s fiery  
 880 Barb stings me!  
 My heart kicks at my ribs in fear!  
 My eyes are wheeling and rolling!  
 I am blown off course by a raging  
 Wind of frenzy. My tongue is out of control.  
 885 My words churn and strike at random  
 Against waves of foul disaster.

*(Io, having relapsed into the kind of  
uncontrolled and disjointed gesturing  
with which she entered, departs.)*

CHORUS

Wise, wise indeed was the one  
 Who first mentally weighed up this idea  
 And gave verbal expression to it,  
 890 That it is better by far to marry among one’s own,

Strophe

καὶ μήτε τῶν πλούτῳ διαθρυπτομένων  
μήτε τῶν γέννα μεγαλυνομένων  
ὄντα χερνήταν ἐραστεῦσαι γάμων.

- μήποτε, μήποτ' ἔμ', ὦ  
895 Μοῖραι < ~ — — > λεχέων Διὸς εὐ-  
νάτειραν ἴδοισθε πέλουσαν,  
μηδὲ πλαθείην γαμέτα τινὶ τῶν ἐξ Οὐρανοῦ·  
ταρβῶ γὰρ ἀστεργάνορα παρθενίαν  
εἰσορῶσ' Ἴοῦς ἀμαλαπτομέναν  
900 δυσπλάνοις Ἥρας ἀλατείαις πόνων.

- ἐμοὶ δ', ὁπόθι μὲν ὁμαλός, ὁ γάμος ἄφοβος, οὐ-  
δὲ δέδια· μηδὲ κρεισσόνων θεῶν  
τίς μ' ἄφυκτον ὄμμα προσδράκοι.  
ἀπόλεμος ὅδε γ' ὁ πόλεμος, ἄπορα πόριμος· οὐδ'  
905 ἔχω τί ἂν γενοίμαν·  
τὰν Διὸς γὰρ οὐχ ὁρῶ μῆτιν ὅπα φύγοιμ' ἄν.

- Πρ. ἦ μὴν ἔτι Ζεύς, καίπερ αὐθάδη φρονῶν,  
ἔσται ταπεινός, οἷον ἐξαρτύεται  
γάμον γαμεῖν, δις αὐτὸν ἐκ τυραννίδος  
910 θρόνων τ' αἶστον ἐκβαλεῖ· πατρὸς δ' ἄρὰ  
Κρόνου τότε ἤδη παντελῶς κρανθήσεται  
ἦν ἐκπίτνων ἡρᾶτο δηναίων θρόνων.  
τοιῶνδε μόχθων ἐκτροπὴν οὐδεὶς θεῶν  
δύναιτ' ἂν αὐτῷ πλὴν ἐμοῦ δεῖξαι σαφῶς·  
915 ἐγὼ τάδ' οἶδα χῶ τροπῷ. πρὸς ταῦτά νυν

895 metrum claudicat: Μοῖραι < τελεσφόροι > Burges (cf. 511) < μακραίωνες > Hermann  
< πολυζήλων > λεχέων Flach

899 ἀμαλαπτομέναν Weil et Dindorf: γάμω δαπτομέναν vel -ην Ω

901 ὁπόθι West: ὅτι Ω οὐδὲ Elmsley: οὐ Ω

902-3 θεῶν τίς scripsi: θεῶν ἔρωσ codd. (ἔρωσ ex schol. irreptum nonnulli abiudicaverunt)  
μ' ἄφυκτον West: ἄφυκτον... με codd. προσδράκοι Rb: -δάρκοι vel -δράμοι vel -δέρκοι  
cett.

905 τί Meineke: τίς Ω

906 ὅπα (ὅπα M): ὅπη vel ὅποι vel ὅπου cett.

907 αὐθάδη φρονῶν Q K L La nonnulli alii: αὐθάδης φρενῶν fere omnes cett.

And not, if you are a worker, hanker after marriage  
 With those whom wealth has spoiled  
 Or who put on upper-class airs.

O < > Fates, I hope you never, never

Antistrophe

895        See me a partner in  
              Zeus's bed, nor do I want

Any of Ouranos's sons to be my husband.

For I am afraid as I look upon Io,

The maiden who rejected her lover, disfigured

900        By the painful wanderings caused by Hera.

For me, marriage on equal terms is not frightening,

Epode

And I am not afraid; I pray that none of the powerful gods

Cast at me a glance that allows no escape.

This indeed would be a war that could not be waged, with no way out,

905        And I don't know what would become of me;

For I don't see how I could escape Zeus's wiliness.

#### PROMETHEUS

Just wait! Zeus, for all his stubborn thoughts,

Will yet be humbled, because of the kind of marriage

He's fixing to enter, which will hurl him from his tyrant's

910        Throne into oblivion; his father Kronos's

Curse will then be totally fulfilled,

Uttered as he fell from his ancient throne.

The way to avert such agonies none of the gods

Would be able to show him clearly – none but I.

915        I know how to do it. In the face of this threat, then,

- θαρσῶν καθήσθω τοῖς πεδαρσίοις κτύποις  
 πιστὸς τινάσσων τ' ἐν χεροῖν πύρπνουν βέλος·  
 οὐδὲν γὰρ αὐτῷ ταῦτ' ἐπαρκέσει τὸ μὴ οὐ  
 πεσεῖν ἀτίμως πτώματ' οὐκ ἀνασχετά.  
 920 τοῖον παλαιστὴν νῦν παρασκευάζεται  
 ἐπ' αὐτὸς αὐτῷ, δυσμαχώτατον τέρας,  
 ὃς δὴ κεραυνοῦ κρείσσον' εὐρήσει φλόγα  
 βροντῆς θ' ὑπερβάλλοντα καρτερὸν κτύπον  
 θαλασσίαν τε γῆς τινάκτειραν νόσον  
 925 ἢ τρίκροον αἰχμὴν τὴν Ποσειδῶνος σκεδᾷ.  
 πταίσας δὲ τῷδε πρὸς κακῷ μαθήσεται  
 ὅσον τό τ' ἄρχειν καὶ τὸ δουλεύειν δίχα.  
 Χο. σύ θην, ἃ χρήζεις, ταῦτ' ἐπιγλωσσᾷ Διός.  
 Πρ. ἅπερ τελεῖται, πρὸς δ' ἃ βούλομαι λέγω.  
 930 Χο. καὶ προσδοκᾶν χρὴ δεσπόσειν Ζηνὸς τινα;  
 Πρ. καὶ τῶνδ' ἔξει δυσλοφωτέρους πόνους.  
 Χο. πῶς οὐχὶ ταρβεῖς τοιάδ' ἐκρίπτων ἔπη;  
 Πρ. τί δ' ἂν φοβοίμην, ὧ θανεῖν οὐ μόνον;  
 Χο. ἀλλ' ἄθλον ἂν σοι τοῦδ' ἔτ' ἀλγίω πόροι.  
 935 Πρ. ὁ δ' οὖν ποεῖτω· πάντα προσδοκητὰ μοι.  
 Χο. οἱ προσκυνοῦντες τὴν Ἀδράστειαν σοφοί.  
 Πρ. σέβου, προσεύχου, θῶπτε τὸν κρατοῦντ' αἰεί·  
 ἔμοι δ' ἔλασσον Ζηνὸς ἢ μηδὲν μέλει.  
 δράτω, κρατεῖτω τόνδε τὸν βραχὺν χρόνον,  
 940 ὅπως θέλει· δαρὸν γὰρ οὐκ ἄρξει θεοῖς.

924 νόσον suspectum (νέμων Askew, λαβών Griffith [1983: 251])

925 ἢ τρίκροον West : τρίαῖναν (glossema, ut videtur, West 1990: 313–4) Ω

933 τί δ' ἂν fere omnes (τί δαὶ M<sup>ac</sup>)

934 τοῦδ' ἔτ' Elmsley, Burges : τοῦδ' vel τοῦδέ γ' Ω

Let him sit confidently, trusting in his elevated  
 Thunder and shaking his fiery lightning bolt.  
 There is no way that these will help him avoid  
 A complete, intolerable and ignominious fall.  
 920 He is even now preparing against himself  
 A wrestler so strong, a marvel difficult to combat,  
 Who will indeed discover a mightier flame  
 Than lightning and a roar louder than thunder,  
 And a sea-borne pestilence to shake the earth  
 925 That will smash Poseidon's triple-pointed spear.  
 When Zeus has stumbled against this disaster  
 He'll learn the difference between ruling and slavery.

CHORUS-LEADER

Surely your threats against Zeus are wishful thinking.

PROMETHEUS

I'm saying what will happen – and what I want.

CHORUS-LEADER

930 Must we expect that someone will be Zeus's master?

PROMETHEUS

Yes, and he'll have torments heavier than these.

CHORUS-LEADER

How are you not afraid to hurl such words?

PROMETHEUS

Afraid of what, since it is not my fate to die?

CHORUS-LEADER

He might give you an ordeal still more painful than this.

PROMETHEUS

935 Let him do it then! I have foreseen everything.

CHORUS-LEADER

Those who grovel before Necessity are wise.

PROMETHEUS

Revere, supplicate, fawn on the powers-that-be!

To me, Zeus is of less than no concern.

Let him act, indulge his power for this short time

940 Just as he likes; not long will he rule the gods.

*(Hermes is swung into view on the crane.)*



ἄλλ' εἰσορῶ γὰρ τόνδε τὸν Διὸς τρόχιν,  
τὸν τοῦ τυράννου τοῦ νέου διάκονον·  
πάντως τι καινὸν ἀγγελῶν ἐλήλυθεν.

## ΕΡΜΗΣ

σὲ τὸν σοφιστήν, τὸν πικρῶς ὑπέρπικρον,  
945 τὸν ἐξαμαρτόντ' εἰς θεοὺς ἐφημέροις  
πορόντα τιμάς, τὸν πυρὸς κλέπτην λέγω·  
πατὴρ ἄνωγέ σ' οὔστινας κομπεῖς γάμους  
αὐδᾶν, πρὸς ὧν γ' ἐκεῖνος ἐκπίπτει κράτους·  
καὶ ταῦτα μέντοι μηδὲν αἰνικτηρίως,  
950 ἄλλ' αὖθ' ἕκαστα φράζε. μηδ' ἐμοὶ διπλᾶς  
ὁδοὺς, Προμηθεῦ, προσβάλης· ὁρᾷς δ' ὅτι  
Ζεὺς τοῖς τοιούτοις οὐχὶ μαλθακίζεται.

Πρ. σεμνόστομός γε καὶ φρονήματος πλέως  
ὁ μῦθός ἐστιν, ὡς θεῶν ὑπηρέτου.

955 νέον νέοι κρατεῖτε καὶ δοκεῖτε δὴ  
ναῖειν ἀπενθῇ πέργαμ'. οὐκ ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ  
δισσοὺς τυράννους ἐκπεσόντας ἡσθόμην;  
τρίτον δὲ τὸν νῦν κοιρανοῦντ' ἐπόψομαι  
αἴσχιστα καὶ τάχιστα. μή τί σοι δοκῶ  
960 ταρβεῖν ὑποπτήσσειν τε τοὺς νέους θεοὺς;  
πολλοῦ γε καὶ τοῦ παντὸς ἐλλείπω. σὺ δὲ  
κέλευθον ἦνπερ ἦλθες ἐγκόνει πάλιν·  
πεύσῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς ἐμέ.

Ερ. τοιοῖσδε μέντοι καὶ πρὶν αὐθαδίσμασιν  
965 εἰς τάσδε σαυτὸν πημονὰς καθώρμισας.

Πρ. τῆς σῆς λατρείας τὴν ἐμὴν δυσπραξίαν,  
σαφῶς ἐπίστας', οὐκ ἂν ἀλλάξαιμ' ἐγώ.

948 ὧν γ' Lh post correctionem : ὧν τ' Ω

965 καθώρμισας plerique : καθάρωσας vel καθώροσας M (καθώρισας alii)



But wait! I see this lackey of Zeus approaching,  
The one who runs errands for the new tyrant.  
Certainly he's come to announce something new.

HERMES

945 You there, sophist, with a tongue too sharp,  
The one who did wrong to the gods by giving privileges  
To mortal creatures: fire-thief, I'm talking to you!  
Father orders you to tell what marriage  
You're boasting about, the one that costs him his power.  
And don't do this in any riddling way,  
950 But tell each thing as it is – and don't force me  
To make the trip again, Prometheus; you can see  
Zeus is not softened by such behaviour.

PROMETHEUS

Very elevated and full of fiery spirit  
Your talk is – as befits the gods' lackey.  
955 You are all young, young in power, and no doubt  
You think you dwell in a fortress immune to misery.  
But haven't I seen two tyrants dislodged from it?  
I'll see this third and present lord fall too,  
Most quickly and shamefully. Perhaps you think  
960 I'm afraid and cower before the young gods?  
Wrong! Far from it. And you can scurry back  
Along the same route by which you came,  
For you won't get answers to any of your questions from me.

HERMES

It was by such acts of self-will before  
965 That you got yourself into these miseries.

PROMETHEUS

Not for your servitude, you can be sure,  
Would I exchange my unlucky situation.

< Ερ. > κρείσσον γάρ, οἶμαι, τῇδε λατρεύειν πέτρα  
ἢ πατρὶ φῦναι Ζηνὶ πιστὸν ἄγγελον.

< Πρ. .... >

970 οὕτως ὑβρίζειν τοὺς ὑβρίζοντας χρεών.

Ερ. χλιδᾶν ἔοικας τοῖς παροῦσι πράγμασιν.

Πρ. χλιδῶ; χλιδῶντας ὥδε τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐγὼ  
ἐχθροὺς ἴδοιμι· καὶ σὲ δ' ἐν τούτοις λέγω.

Ερ. ἦ κάμῃ γάρ τι ξυμφοραῖς ἐπαιτιᾷ;

975 Πρ. ἀπλῶ λόγῳ τοὺς πάντας ἐχθαίρω θεούς,  
ὅσοι παθόντες εὖ κακοῦσί μ' ἐκδίκως.

Ερ. κλύω σ' ἐγὼ μεμνηνότε' οὐ σμικρὰν νόσον.

Πρ. νοσοῖμ' ἄν, εἰ νόσημα τοὺς ἐχθροὺς στυγεῖν.

Ερ. εἴης φορητὸς οὐκ ἄν, εἰ πράσσοις καλῶς.

980 Πρ. ὥμοι.

Ερ. τόδε Ζεὺς τοῦπος οὐκ ἐπίσταται.

Πρ. ἀλλ' ἐκδιδάσκει πάνθ' ὁ γηράσκων χρόνος.

Ερ. καὶ μὴν σύ γ' οὐπω σωφρονεῖν ἐπίστασαι.

Πρ. σὲ γὰρ προσηύδων οὐκ ἄν, ὄνθ' ὑπηρέτην.

Ερ. ἐρεῖν ἔοικας οὐδὲν ὦν χρήζει πατήρ.

985 Πρ. καὶ μὴν ὀφείλων γ' ἄν τίνοιμ' αὐτῷ χάριν.

968–9 Mercurio attribuit Erfurdt lacunam unius versus post 969 statuit Reisig

974 ξυμφοραῖς Porson : συμφοραῖς vel συμφορᾶς codd.

980 ὥμοι West (1998 Praefatio LIII) : ὥμοι Ω

HERMES

Oh, it's better, I suppose, to serve this rock  
Than be the trusty messenger of Father Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

.....

970 Thus must insolent people be treated insolently.

HERMES

You seem to luxuriate in your present circumstances.

PROMETHEUS

Luxuriate? I'd like to see my enemies  
– Including you – in this kind of "luxury."

HERMES

You're somehow blaming me for your misfortunes?

PROMETHEUS

975 Put simply, I hate all those gods who took  
Benefits from me but harm me unjustly.

HERMES

I hear you madly raving – no small sickness.

PROMETHEUS

Let me be "sick" – if loathing enemies is sickness.

HERMES

If you were in good condition you'd be intolerable.

PROMETHEUS

*(Prometheus cries out in pain.)*

980 Aaah!

HERMES

... is a word Zeus doesn't understand.

PROMETHEUS

But time as it grows old teaches everything.

HERMES

Well, *you* haven't yet learned good sense.

PROMETHEUS

No, or I wouldn't be talking to you, a lackey.

HERMES

You will not, it seems, tell anything that Father wants.

PROMETHEUS

985 Yet there's a favour owing I'd like to repay him.

Ερ. ἐκερτόμησας δῆθεν ὥστε παῖδά με.

Πρ. οὐ γὰρ σὺ παῖς τε κ᾽τι τοῦδ' ἀνούστερος,

εἰ προσδοκᾷς ἐμοῦ τι πεύσεσθαι πάρα;

οὐκ ἔστιν αἴκισμ' οὐδὲ μηχανήμ' ὅτῳ

990 προτρέψεταιί με Ζεὺς γεγωνήσαι τάδε

πρὶν ἂν χαλασθῇ δεσμὰ λυμαντήρια.

πρὸς ταῦτα ῥιπτείσθω μὲν αἰθαλοῦσσα φλόξ,

λευκοπτέρῳ δὲ νιφάδι καὶ βροντήμασι

χθονίοις κυκάτω πάντα καὶ ταρασσέτω·

995 γνάμψει γὰρ οὐδὲν τῶνδέ μ' ὥστε καὶ φράσαι

πρὸς οὗ χρεῶν νιν ἐκπεσεῖν τυραννίδος.

Ερ. ὄρα νυν εἴ σοι ταῦτ' ἄρωγὰ φαίνεται.

Πρ. ὥπται πάλαι δὴ καὶ βεβούλευται τάδε.

Ερ. τόλμησον, ὦ μάταιε, τόλμησόν ποτε

1000 πρὸς τὰς παρούσας πημονὰς ὀρθῶς φρονεῖν.

Πρ. ὀχλεῖς μάτην με κῦμ' ὅπως παρηγορῶν.

εἰσελθέτω σε μήποθ' ὥς ἐγὼ Διὸς

γνώμην φοβηθεῖς θηλύνους γενήσομαι

καὶ λιπαρήσω τὸν μέγα στυγούμενον

1005 γυναικομίμοις ὑπτιάσμασιν χερῶν

λῦσαί με δεσμῶν τῶνδε· τοῦ παντὸς δέω.

Ερ. λέγων ἔοικα πολλὰ καὶ μάτην ἐρεῖν·

τέγγη γὰρ οὐδὲν οὐδὲ μαλθάσση λιταῖς

ἐμαῖς, δακῶν δὲ στόμιον ὥς νεοζυγῆς

1010 πῶλος βιάζη καὶ πρὸς ἡνίας μάχη.

ἀτὰρ σφοδρύνη γ' ἀσθενεῖ σοφίσματι·

αὐθαδία γὰρ τῷ φρονοῦντι μὴ καλῶς

αὐτὴ κατ' αὐτὴν οὐδενὸς μεῖζον σθένει.

986 ὥστε Hermann : ὥς Ω

992 ῥιπτείσθω West (v. 1043 collato) : ῥιπτέσθω Ω

HERMES

Why, you're mocking me as if I were a child!

PROMETHEUS

Well, aren't you a child, or even stupider than one,

If you expect to find out anything from me?

There's no outrageous treatment, no device,

990 By which Zeus will induce me to tell these things

Until the indignity of these chains is undone.

So let the bolts of blazing fire be hurled,

Let him churn and throw everything into confusion

With a white-winged snowstorm and rumblings from the earth:

995 None of this will bend me to tell by whom

He is fated to be dislodged from tyranny.

HERMES

Just see whether this appears to be helping you.

PROMETHEUS

These things were seen, and decided, long ago.

HERMES

Be daring, you fool, daring enough at last

1000 To think correctly in the face of present misery.

PROMETHEUS

Useless your pressure on me, like addressing a wave.

Never get into your head that I, through fear

Of Zeus's intent, will start to think like a woman

And importune the one I loathe so much

1005 With womanish, upturned, pleading hands

To release me from these shackles. Not at all!

HERMES

My many words, it seems, will be spoken in vain.

My entreaties do not melt or soften you

At all. Rather, champing at the bit like a colt

1010 Newly in harness, you struggle and fight the reins;

But your excess rests on a cleverness without strength,

For stubbornness in one who's thinking wrongly

Taken by itself is utterly powerless.

- σκέψαι δ', ἐὰν μὴ τοῖς ἑμοῖς πεισθῇς λόγοις,  
 1015 οἶός σε χειμῶν καὶ κακῶν τρικυμία  
 ἔπεισ' ἄφυκτος· πρῶτα μὲν γὰρ ὀκρίδα  
 φάραγγα βροντῇ καὶ κεραυνία φλογὶ  
 πατὴρ σπαράξει τήνδε, καὶ κρύψει δέμας  
 τὸ σόν, πετραία δ' ἀγκάλη σε βαστάσει·  
 1020 μακρὸν δὲ μῆκος ἐκτελευτήσας χρόνον  
 ἄσπορρον ἥξεις εἰς φάος, Διὸς δέ τοι  
 πτηγὸς κύων, δαφοινὸς αἰετός, λάβρως  
 διαρταμήσει σώματος μέγα ῥάκος,  
 ἄκλητος ἔρπων δαιταλεὺς πανήμερος,  
 1025 κελαινόβρωτον δ' ἦπαρ ἐκθoinάσεται.  
 τοιοῦδε μόχθου τέρμα μή τι προσδόκα  
 πρὶν ἂν θεῶν τις διάδοχος τῶν σῶν πόνων  
 φανῇ θελήσῃ τ' εἰς ἀναύγητον μολεῖν  
 Ἄϊδην κνεφαῖά τ' ἀμφὶ Ταρτάρου βάθῃ.  
 1030 πρὸς ταῦτα βούλευ', ὥς ὅδ' οὐ πεπλασμένος  
 ὁ κόμπος, ἀλλὰ καὶ λίαν εἰρημένος·  
 ψευδηγορεῖν γὰρ οὐκ ἐπίσταται στόμα  
 τὸ Δῖον, ἀλλὰ πᾶν ἔπος τελεῖ. σὺ δὲ  
 πάπταινε καὶ φρόντιζε, μηδ' αὐθαδίαν  
 1035 εὐβουλίας ἀμείνον' ἡγήσῃ ποτέ.  
 Χο. ἡμῖν μὲν Ἑρμῆς οὐκ ἄκαιρα φαίνεται  
 λέγειν· ἄνωγε γὰρ σε τὴν αὐθαδίαν  
 μεθέντ' ἐρευνᾶν τὴν σοφὴν εὐβουλίαν.  
 πείθου· σοφῷ γὰρ αἰσχροὺς ἐξαμαρτάνειν.  
 1040 Πρ. εἰδότη τοί μοι τάσδ' ἀγγελίας  
 ὅδ' ἐθώϋξεν· πάσχειν δὲ κακῶς



- 1015 But consider, if my words do not move you,  
What kind of storm and tidal wave of misery  
Will strike you, inescapably. First, Father  
Will smash this jagged chasm to pieces with thunder  
And lightning flame; your body will be buried;  
The rocks will keep a stranglehold on you.  
1020 Finally, when a vast length of time has passed,  
You will return again to daylight, but the winged hound  
Of Zeus, a tawny eagle, will furiously tear  
Your body to pieces, make it a heap of rags,  
Coming without invitation to an all-day banquet,  
1025 Who will feast on and gnaw your liver until it is black.  
Expect no end at all to such sufferings  
Until some god who will replace you in your trials  
Appears and volunteers to go down to sunless  
Hades and the murky depths round Tartaros.  
1030 Form plans accordingly, aware that this  
Is not a made-up boast but a real assertion,  
For the lips of Zeus do not know how to lie;  
His every word will be fulfilled. You'd better  
Be wary and take thought. Never believe  
1035 That stubbornness is better than good judgement.

## CHORUS-LEADER

To us Hermes appears to be saying things  
That are not untimely, for he told you to let go  
Your stubbornness and seek out wise judgement.  
Comply: for it's a shame for a wise man to be wrong.

## PROMETHEUS

- 1040 You can be sure I knew this message  
He barked out; but it's not at all strange

- ἐχθρὸν ὑπ' ἐχθρῶν οὐδὲν αἰκές.  
 πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐπὶ μοι ῥιπτείσθω μὲν  
 πυρὸς ἀμφήκης βόστρυχος, αἰθήρ δ'  
 1045 ἐρεθιζέσθω βροντῇ σφακέλω τ'  
 ἀγρίων ἀνέμων, χθόνα δ' ἐκ πυθμένων  
 αὐταῖς ῥίζαις πνεῦμα κραδαίνοι,  
 κῦμα δὲ πόντου τραχεῖ ῥοθίῳ  
 ξυγχώσειεν τῶν οὐρανίων  
 1050 ἄστρον διόδους· εἰς δὲ κελαινὸν  
 Τάρταρον ἄρδην ῥίψει δέμας  
 τοῦμόν Ἀνάγκης στερραῖς δίναις·  
 πάντως ἐμέ γ' οὐ θανατώσει.  
 Ερ. τοιάδε μέντοι τῶν φρενοπλήκτων  
 1055 βουλευμάτων' ἔπη τ' ἐστὶν ἀκοῦσαι.  
 τί γὰρ ἐλλείπει μὴ οὐ παραπαίειν  
 ἢ τοῦδ' εὐχῇ; τί χαλᾷ μανιῶν;  
 ἀλλ' οὖν ὑμεῖς γ', αἱ πημοσύναις  
 συγκάμνουσαι ταῖς τοῦδε, τόπων  
 1060 μετὰ ποι χωρεῖτ' ἐκ τῶνδε θεῶς,  
 μὴ φρένας ὑμῶν ἡλιθιώση  
 βροντῆς μύκημ' ἀτέραμνον.  
 Χο. ἄλλο τι φώνει καὶ παραμυθοῦ μ'  
 ὅτι καὶ πείσεις· οὐ γὰρ δῆπου  
 1065 τοῦτό γε τλητὸν παρέσυρας ἔπος.  
 πῶς με κελεύεις κακότητ' ἀσκεῖν;  
 μετὰ τοῦδ' ὅτι χρή πάσχειν ἐθέλω·  
 τοὺς προδότας γὰρ μισεῖν ἔμαθον,  
 κοῦκ ἔστι νόσος

1043 ῥιπτείσθω M<sup>2</sup> : -έσθω cett.

1050 δὲ Schütz : τε Ω

1056 μὴ οὐ Wecklein : μὴ Ω

1057 ἢ τοῦδ' εὐχῇ Winckelmann, Schneider : ἢ τοῦδ' εὐτυχί M (εἰ τοῦδ' εὐτυχί vel εἰ τάδ' εὐτυχί cett.)

1061 ἡλιθιώση H : ἡλιθ- codd. (cf. West 1998: p. XXX)

For enemies to treat each other badly.  
 So let fire's sharp tendril be hurled  
 At me. Let thunder agitate  
 1045 The heavens, and spasms  
 Of wild winds. Let blasts shake  
 The earth to the base of its very roots.  
 Let the sea's wave, surging fiercely,  
 Send into turmoil the paths  
 1050 Of the stars in heaven. He can lift up  
 And hurl my body to Tartaros  
 In Necessity's harsh vortex;  
 Me will he in no way kill.

## HERMES

Such are the schemes and words  
 1055 To be heard from madmen!  
 Is his boast anything short of insanity?  
 Is his madness abating at all?

*(Hermes addresses the Chorus.)*

But you who share in suffering  
 His miseries, go somewhere else!  
 1060 Get out of here quickly, so you are not  
 Stunned out of your senses  
 By the harsh rumble of thunder.

## CHORUS

Say something different, give me advice that will  
 Actually persuade me, for totally intolerable  
 1065 Is this attempt of yours to deflect me.  
 How can you urge me to act basely?

*(They point to Prometheus.)*

With him I am willing to suffer what I must,  
 For I have learnt to hate traitors,  
 And there is no disease

- 1070 τῆσδ' ἦντιν' ἀπέπτυσσα μάλλον.  
 Ερ. ἄλλ' οὖν μέμνησθ' ἅ γ' ἐγὼ προλέγω,  
 μηδὲ πρὸς Ἄτης θηραθεῖσαι  
 μέμψησθε τύχην, μηδέ ποτ' εἴπηθ'  
 ὥς Ζεὺς ὑμᾶς εἰς ἀπρόοπτον
- 1075 πῆμ' εἰσέβαλεν· μὴ δῆτ', αὐταὶ δ'  
 ὑμᾶς αὐτάς· εἰδυῖαι γὰρ  
 κοῦκ ἐξαίφνης οὐδὲ λαθραίως  
 εἰς ἀπέραντον δίκτυον Ἄτης  
 ἐμπλεχθήσεσθ' ὑπ' ἀνοίας.
- 1080 Πρ. καὶ μὴν ἔργῳ κοῦκέτι μύθῳ  
 χθὼν σεσάλευται,  
 βρυχία δ' ἤχῳ παραμυκᾶται  
 βροντῆς, ἔλικες δ' ἐκλάμπουσι  
 στεροπῆς ζάφυροι, στρόμβοι δὲ κόνιν
- 1085 εἰλίσσουσι, σκιρτᾷ δ' ἀνέμων  
 πνεύματα πάντων εἰς ἄλληλα  
 στάσιν ἀντίπνουν ἀποδεικνύμενα,  
 ξυντετάρακται δ' αἰθὴρ πόντῳ.  
 τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ριπὴ Διόθεν
- 1090 τεύχουσα φόβον στείχει φανερώς.  
 ὦ μητρὸς ἐμῆς σέβας, ὦ πάντων  
 αἰθὴρ κοινὸν φάος εἰλίσσων,  
 ἐσορᾷθ' ὥς ἔκδικα πάσχω.

1071 ἅ γ' ἐγὼ anon. (Parr apud Griffith 1983: 77) : ἅτ' ἐγὼ Ω

1093 ἐσορᾷθ' ὥς West in app. : ἐσορᾷς μ' ὥς Ω

1070 I find more loathsome than this.

HERMES

Just remember what I'm telling you,  
And when Disaster hunts you down,  
Don't blame your luck, and don't ever say  
That Zeus hurled you into unforeseen

1075 Misery. Not at all: you brought it  
On yourselves! For with full knowledge,  
Not suddenly or in secret,  
You will have got yourselves tangled  
In Disaster's endless net through stupidity.

*(Hermes flies off.*

*Rumblings are heard and flashings seen.)*

PROMETHEUS

1080 Now in fact, not just in word,  
The earth is shaking,  
And from its depths there echoes a rumble  
Of thunder. Coils of fiery flame flash out.  
Whirlwinds set the dust

1085 Spinning. Blasts of all the winds  
Leap, clashing convulsively  
in fierce and bitter strife.

Sky and sea are mixed in confusion.  
Such a strike comes visibly against me

1090 From Zeus, to make me afraid.  
O majesty of Earth, my mother,  
O Sky in which the sun's universal light revolves,  
Look on me, how unjustly I suffer!

*(Prometheus and the Chorus are concealed from view.)*